

CONSERVATIONISM, neoclassicism, post-modernism — these are the "isms" to adopt if you want to get ahead in the world. They are easy to find, and just need feeding regularly with slabs of Modernism.

Such was the feeling gained by attendance at the symposium on designing new buildings in historic cities, held in Bath last Friday and organised by the Georgian Group and the Bath Preservation Trust. From being on the defensive, it has suddenly become crystal clear that conservationists now have real clout. The audience featured many planners, some developers, some slightly sheepish falling Modernists, all in attendance to hear the new orthodoxy. And they certainly got it.

This may seem a rather crude and simple way of introducing an event that provided, at times, a deeply penetrating commentary on aspects of the problem of building in context. But while the talks from eminent speakers imparted wisdom that, largely, could have been gleaned before or afterwards in other ways, the symposium as a whole transcended individual contributions as if to make its own simple statement: "This is how it must

Architects, planners, developers and conservationists packed into the Huntingdon Centre, Bath, to find answers to a common problem — how to build in historic cities. Lewis Blackwell joined them.

Conservation on the attack

work from now on."

An opening blast came from the chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission, Norman St John Stevas, who outlined the implications of what he saw as a "sea-change" in the mood of the country towards building in historic places. His new style of leading the RFAC — marked by a willingness to speak out critically — was summed up in his call for the restoration of historic centres to "begin with demolition". In many situations this was the only way of dealing with post-war buildings that were "brutal, barbaric, philis-

tine, arrogant, totally lacking in beauty and imagination".

His plan for developing the commission includes determining sites where it believes something should not be built at all — the recent controversy over buildings proposed for the grounds of Cavendish Lodge, Bath, is a case in point. In other cases, such as the proposed development on the Podium site in Bath, he made clear his uncompromising approach by insisting that he still felt the whole design process should be started again.

Stevas peppered his speech



On the historical approach, from left: Jeremy Dixon, Quinlan Terry, Leon Krier, symposium chairman Colin Amery, Georgian Group secretary Roger White, Robert Adam, J Mordaunt Crook.

with shots against the Modernist legacy. Then he handed over to Professor Joe Mordaunt Crook's heavy artillery. His talk, "From Modern to Post-modern", presented Modernist architects as obsessed with functionalism, and blind to the

fact that "beauty is not a necessary function of utility". "Now we are all post-modernists, because we are all post-functionalists," he said. "We have to relearn what the 19th century discovered, that architecture begins where function ends." Post-modernism sought to find "identity in an age of anonymity". He believed a key boost to the development of conservationism was the work of traffic engineers in the 1960s, and said that Modernism had played itself out by presenting a functional approach where "the only perfect building would be an asylum for the blind".

The ascendancy of the aesthetic of engineering was presented by Terry Farrell as an explanation of what he is seeking to overcome at the South Bank, and would like to tackle in the Barbican: "1960s town planning schemes were in many ways the architecture of the engineer; they are unfinished, and the architect can look at it again, coming in where the engineer left off."

Jeremy Dixon's explanation of his elegant work somehow showed it to be just what everybody held in some respect, yet he did not promote any clear manifesto, other than commenting "you are not making a proper job if you are not making an independent artwork". His was the most modest and impressive show of work in the day.

The young neoclassicist Robert Adam was not particularly interested in attacking the corpse of Modernism. His fresh target, dangerously close to the conservationist ranks, were those who espouse "neo-vernacular": the architecture of compromise. "It is a town planners' architecture, the safe choice for the panel of local authority butchers," he said.

He argued against reproduction, and for development based on knowledge of the range of styles. Historic cities and towns tended to be policed by planners

keen to ensure buildings bits of the ones they were and were "impossible".

The explanation situation, he claimed, fact that "the destruction of the Modern Movement been transferred in created to control a point, and that about share a bed with Munsar.

"I have experienced abuse and obstruction: planning officers daily million office headquarters at mention," said Adam. "Angel Yard."

They are Feilden & Mawson with John Laing Construction, Hutchison Locke & Monk with that planners abused, "destroy everything mediocre".

But if Adam demands for invention from the revisionists, his fellow revivalist Quinlan Terry: "I have great works that come out of head". His buildings notebooks, his studies buildings. "We are wisdom of our forefathers peril," he declared, "moral dimension to the Classical manner."

But there is also business logic at work Terry pointed out that and tested methods of reduce the liability of Andrew Hammond of mere Estates, the do- Terry's Richmond scheme, pointed out pleased planners, and, he hoped, the client.

Influential theorist Krier said he was in agreement with Terry's approach. He set out a radical response to building in historic particular Bath. He said to divide cities into quarters that abolished for massive centralisation, wanted to see the breaking of the tourist and servicing nature of cities needed to serve themselves.

In particular, Bath was turn back to its medieval post-industrial, to its purpose and new opening up this original for the city's existence must stop the predators into the city," he warned. I could not help but think, that one can many predators in our

This symposium helped out some of the tensions the fights will go on. Modernists are almost off, but there is clearly room for new arguments commerce and utopian seek harmony in our cities.

Colchester cuts HQ shortlist

COLCHESTER council has cut down to three the shortlist of architect/developer teams competing to design its new £2.8 million office headquarters at Angel Yard.

They are Feilden & Mawson with John Laing Construction, Hutchison Locke & Monk with that planners abused, "destroy everything mediocre".

Visitors to an exhibition of the schemes have been asked to fill in a form saying which they prefer, with the poll results being taken into consideration by the assessors. The final choice will be made at a council meeting on April 30.

Giant tower decision

TOWER Hamlets council will approve or reject Ian Ritchie's design for a 60-storey office tower in Aldgate before next month's local elections, a spokesman said this week.

Planning and employment gains are expected to outweigh environmental considerations, he suggested. Meanwhile the Royal Fine Art Commission has said it is deeply concerned at the failure of the council to undertake a full environmental impact study of the scheme.

The proposed design would stack 100,000sq m of offices on to the rundown area, at a plot ratio of around 10 to 1.

THE Government is taking a second look at the loophole which has encouraged developers to submit planning applications designed to fall in the hope of getting compensation.

In 1985 an Act was introduced to outlaw the practice whereby developers submitted unacceptable applications for "penthouse flats" in the hope of getting a refusal and substantial compensation.

The play arose because of the 1971 Town and Country Planning Act's provision for landowners to carry out certain limited developments on their own land. Where the secretary of state turns these applications down, compensation is payable by the local authority.

Subsequently, planning authorities became unwilling to turn down such applications for fear of incurring a liability to compensate the applicant.

A 1985 Act to amend the

Spitalfields move clears way for City office scheme

SPITALFIELDS, the giant fruit and vegetable market in East London, is to be moved to Waltham Forest, confirming plans by the City Corporation to sell Spitalfields for a major office development.

Officers at Waltham Forest Council have told BD that "preliminary discussions" have taken place with the London & Metropolitan Trust — a subsidiary of the London & Edinburgh Trust — the developer behind a massive office proposal for the edge-of-city site.

London & Metropolitan has bought 12ha in Temple Mill from the British Rail Property Board and commissioned architects Trehearne & Norman Preston to work on plans for a giant fruit, vegetable and flower market with extensive car parking.

This contradicts the City Corporation's announcement last year that it had abandoned plans to move the market, and instead appointed a working party to investigate ways of improving the existing area.

It refused to comment this week on the market's move, but did confirm that talks have taken place with the London &

Edinburgh Trust over the Spitalfields development.

Architects Fitzroy Robinson have also confirmed that they are working with the London &

By Amanda Ballilleu

Edinburgh on an office development which is understood to be more than 100,000sq m. But the scheme is under wraps because Spitalfields is such a highly sensitive area.

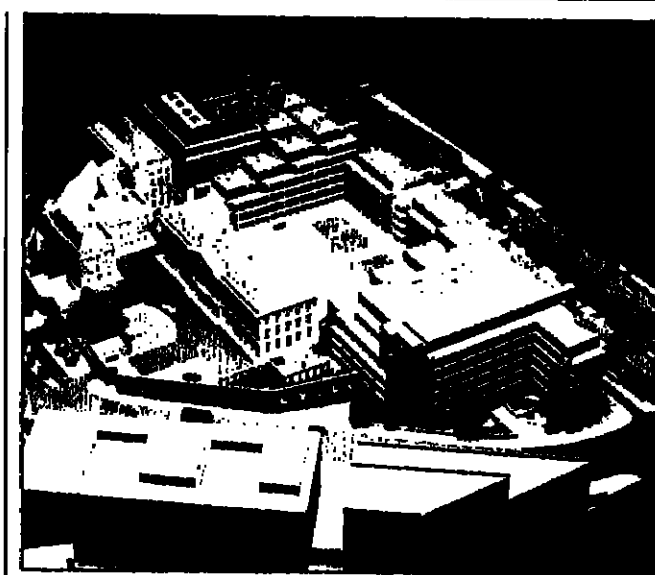
The Spitalfields Trust — the major campaigner in the area — is worried that Sherrin's market buildings, which are not listed,

will be demolished.

A spokesman from the trust said: "A large office development will destroy a thriving residential community. If the scheme excludes our requests for housing, little businesses and open spaces, we will oppose it."

But even when the City Corporation finally decides to sell the land, estimated to be worth around £25 million, planning permission will need to be given by Tower Hamlets council.

Tower Hamlets told BD it has agreed to appoint outside consultants to draw up guidelines for the area's protection.



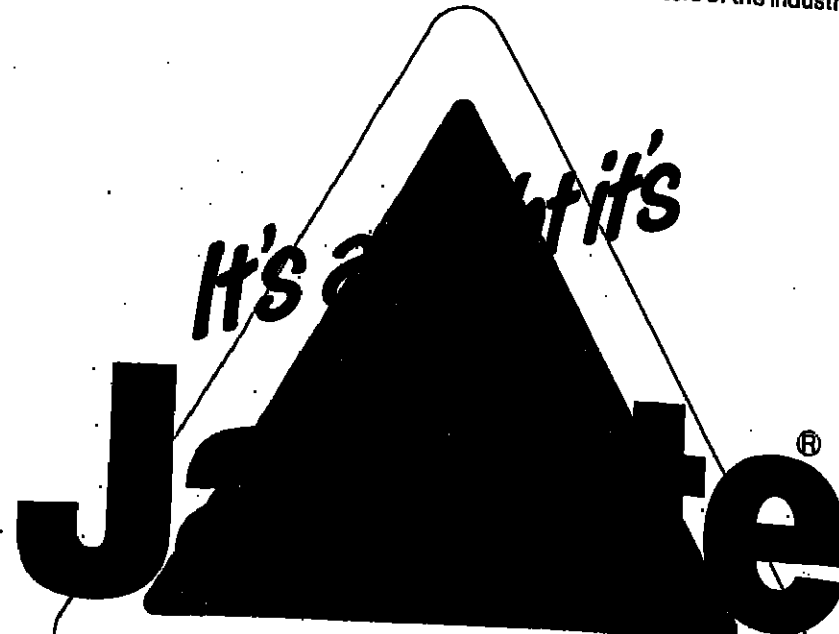
Mint plan gets go-ahead

The extension of London City's boundaries continues apace — while the Mint site has just gained approval, a massive office scheme for the Royal Mint site has just gained approval. Sheppard Robson's designs for a 50,000sq m office scheme in four blocks forms a square around the 1811 Johnson-Smiley Neoclassical mint building, which will also be refurbished for office use. Besides the offices, the redevelopment of the 2.5 ha site includes 80 flats, a community centre, shops, museum complex leisure facilities, parking, pub, restaurant, cafe and open space. The scheme will be linked by subways to St Katherine's Dock, Tower Hill and the Docklands Light Railway stations. Tower Hamlets planning approval came through despite strong local objections to the scheme.

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Gontran Goulden OBE

GONTRAN Goulden OBE, who died last week, is best remembered as a most effective and popular director of the Building Centre during the expansive days of the 1960s.

He was involved in reconstructing the premises at 26 Store Street and in making the centre widely known. Above all he was an internationalist, being director of the International Union of Architects Congress in Britain in 1961 and later president of the International Union of Building Centres.

Born in 1912, he qualified at the Bartlett in 1936. An assistant to Graham Dawbarn until 1939, in the war he rose to the rank of brigadier and was twice mentioned in despatches. After 1945 he practised with Hugh Casson, building houses in London,

Surrey and Kent — he was a friend of both the Cassons.

Caught up in the current post-war Modernism, he was a member of the AA and was a member of the AA Council and even a governor. With changing assistance he got things moving.

A lecturer, broadcaster, a contributor to both the architectural and national press, Times a few weeks ago, carried over into his retirement his enthusiasm for the new. He was a guide for Serenissima Theatre, a person in whose company was almost impossible to have a good time.

£20,000 award marks UN year of homeless

INNOVATIVE housing projects may be eligible for entry in a £20,000 award scheme being run with the 1987 United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

The Building & Social Housing Foundation has put up two £10,000 prizes for the best housing projects in a developed country and an underdeveloped country which "offer sustainable futures to the residents and which present practical and imaginative solutions to current housing problems".

It is expected that the projects chosen will address issues such as unemployment and diminishing energy resources, urban or rural decline, and also offer consistent management methods.

The awards will be offered this year and next, and awards for 1985 are now being judged. Submissions for the 1986 awards must be made by September 30, to the Building & Social Housing Foundation, Memorial Square, Coalville, Leicestershire LE6 4EU.



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Dixon's scheme for opera house fulfils Inigo Jones' vision

JEREMY Dixon's long-awaited scheme for extending the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, will fulfil a version of Inigo Jones' vision of an arcaded frame to the piazza.

The design — which may still not be submitted for planning permission until June, according to ROH officers — proposes an arcade running along part of the north and east side of the square, with a new entrance to the opera house at the corner.

This entrance would lead into a dramatic double spiral stair tower, giving access directly into the auditorium and relieving the excessive crush of the "crush" bar.

The arcades will differ from the crude reproduction Jones' of existing buildings on the north-west of the piazza. Dixon, who has worked with Bill Jack of BDP, intends introducing lunettes between the south and west facing arches, which adopt a stripped classicism.

Above the arcade, which gives onto shops, will be two floors surmounted by an open loggia, where the public will be able to look down on the piazza.

But while it is likely that the public areas of the scheme will attract praise, Dixon and the

By Lewis Blackwell

opera house trustees will have more of a problem with the office and opera backstage provisions.

In particular, the massive flytower, a largely featureless block which will rise well above the rest of the scheme, has already attracted criticism from planners.

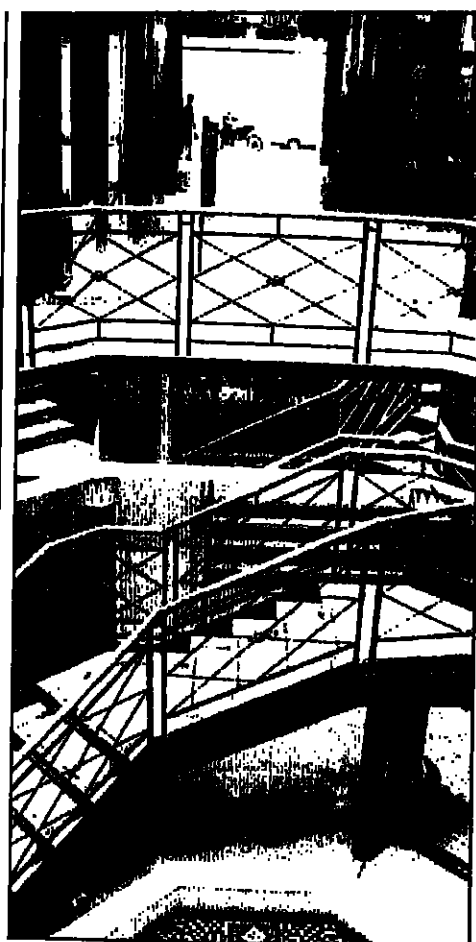
Dixon's view is that it is hardly possible for the planners to accept — indeed, desire — an opera house in such a position without accepting the huge flytower required for modern facilities.

But he has been frustrated in

his attempts to deal as discreetly as possible with the huge office element, which will pay for the scheme. The trustees and their advisers rejected his plan for breaking up the commercial buildings into smaller units spread around the development, because this would have undermined its letting value.

The development is expected to cost more than £50 million, with around 20,000sq m of offices.

Dixon and Jack won the commission nearly two years ago, beating Richard Rogers, Ted Cullinan and the Canadian Jack Diamond.



Knightsbridge job mixes old and new

Architect's £1 million revamp of a Knightsbridge apartment block mixes old and new.

Downstairs in the newly opened-up basement, a careful mix of the original 1890s features and modern comforts is being created.

The steel staircase is also a 100% copy down to the new imitation marble floor and fountain centerpiece.

The original timber-framed windows have been repaired. The Ionic capitals of the original pillars have been cast in epoxy resin, so the new building is indistinguishable from the old one.

Renamed Knights Arcade, the former Park Arcade was to reopen today.

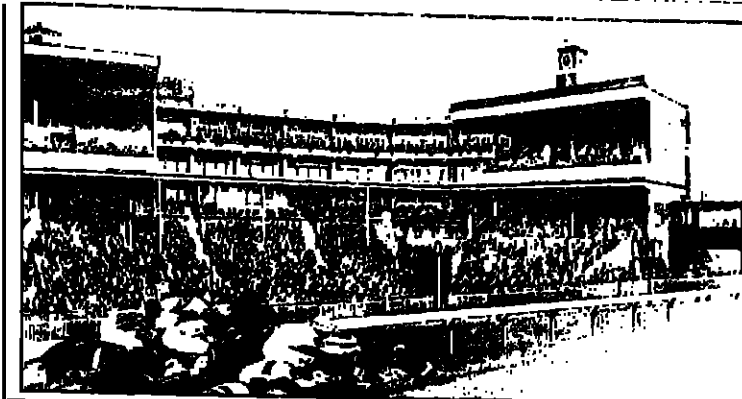
Canadian school faces axe

ARCHITECTURAL education cuts are not just a British problem — across the Atlantic a major row has blown up over plans to close the Toronto School of Architecture.

Among leading architects and academics who have rushed to the defence of the school are IM Pei's partner, Harry Cobb, German architect Werner Seligmann, dean at Syracuse University, and Cornell architecture dean William McMin.

The closure plan follows a highly critical report on the 96-year-old school, which alleged lack of scholarship, a poor record in attracting grants, and infrequent publications.

But Michael Kirkland, a professor at the school, is among those who have attacked the accuracy of the report, saying it uses the wrong assessments and gets wildly wrong such facts as the number of design awards recently won by people connected with the school.



Newmarket plan at starting gate

A £2.8 million new grandstand is to be built at Newmarket racecourse. Designed by Howard Lobb & Partners, the Rowley Mile stand will occupy the site of the existing Jockey Club stand. When built, it will house general viewing areas, private luncheon boxes and a royal box with private lift.

Construction, by Norwest Hold, will start at the beginning of May and is due to finish by March 20, 1987, in a strict "no overlap" contract to comply with the start of next year's flat-racing season.

Silver presses RIBA for action after sgm vote

RIBA leaders are under pressure to review their education policies following the overwhelming vote at last week's special general meeting demanding that the institute supports all schools and sticks to its charter.

By BD Reporters

Nathan Silver, head of the school of architecture at North East London Polytechnic, this week called on institute president Larry Rolland to arrange a

meeting between institute education leaders and representatives of the threatened schools at NELP and Huddersfield.

"The vote clearly said the RIBA should stop its conniving with cuts, and instead support all existing schools," said Silver. "Nothing could be clearer,

although I suspect the RIBA might not be in a hurry to do something about the vote. But we cannot wait until the next council meeting."

He said Richard Rogers, a councillor who has opposed education cuts, suggested he should call for a special meeting with the education committee to work out the implications of the sgm.

Silver dismissed suggestions that the sgm vote had been "fudged" by education chairman Peter Melvin urging the meeting to back the motion, which had been put by his critics. "Melvin's talk was asquirm," he said.

"There is no way the RIBA can get out of the fact that it must now support all schools — and that includes us and Huddersfield."

Meanwhile, both schools are continuing to campaign directly to education secretary Keith Joseph and his ministers. Huddersfield polytechnic and Kirkstall council representatives met senior education department officials yesterday to put their case, and NELP is in line for a second meeting this month with Joseph, who has said he will not make a final decision until after taking all the representations.

NELP and Huddersfield have plans to become rival Architectural Associations in taking mostly overseas students, should intake cuts be imposed.

Guide to awards launched

THE RIBA has launched a new guide to student prizes and awards.

The guide includes 28 competitions and award schemes, ranging in value from the \$100,000 total of the King Fahd award for design and research in Islamic architecture to the £75 Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland prize for freehand drawing.

The RIBA intends to make the guide an annual publication. It includes travel grants, awards for work experience and organised study programmes.

Meanwhile, Arcuc has instituted the William Kretschmer bequest, an award of £1,500 to encourage the extension or diversification of architectural studies.

Applicants must hold a first degree or equivalent in architecture and must be either following or accepted onto a course of post-graduate study (excluding courses recognised for exemption from RIBA exams), or engaged in research at a recognised higher education institution.

Application letters with a CV and at least one testimonial must reach Arcuc at 73 Hallam Street, London W1N 6EE, before July 31.

The award will be announced in September.

Few major Welsh jobs

ONLY 3 per cent of planning applications in Wales between July and September last year were for major projects.

According to Welsh Office figures, 38 per cent were for household extensions, conversions or similar, 48 per cent were for fewer than 10 houses or less than 1,000sq m and 11 per cent were applications for change of use.

Some 62 per cent of applications were judged within eight weeks, while a further 24 per cent took between eight and 13 weeks.

Government guide urges smaller teaching rooms

SMALLER teaching rooms aimed at "programmed" individual learning are among the changes in the new Government space guidelines for polytechnics and higher education colleges.

Other changes, introduced to match new trends in higher education, include the need to group science equipment together to serve several subjects, and changes in catering provision.

Design Note 44, *Area Guidelines for Advanced Further Education Institutions*, is available free of charge from the Department of Education & Science, Publications Despatch Centre, Canons Park, Honey Pot Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 1AZ.

Boom likely

THE National Council for Building Materials Producers this week predicted three years of growth in construction, through a boom in industrial building, and hopes of continued low inflation.

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Law Lords ruling hits Roundhouse project

THE ruling by the Law Lords that the Greater London Council had no powers to "forward fund" £11 million for a black arts centre at the Roundhouse has left the project on the verge of collapse.

The Roundhouse board has told architects Richard Rogers and Thompson Sicomori to drop their £8 million scheme, recommended by the feasibility study, and to work on a much reduced scheme which would exclude plans for a new cinema and theatre.

But even with a drastic reduction of facilities the Roundhouse needed £1 million before it could open, said Richard Sumray, a member of the Roundhouse board. It hoped to raise the money from several sources, including the Arts Council, the Greater London Arts Association and the London boroughs.

The "first priority was to get the centre open and used". Sumray called the Law Lords' decision a "very big disappointment, with the Roundhouse as the main casualty".

This week sees the announcement of trustees for the centre including building chief Sir Alistair McAlpine. Sumray said he hoped the trustees, all from political parties, would have some influence in future negotiations.

EGP go public

ERNEST Green & Partners were the first structural and civil engineering consultancy to go public when they floated the firm on the unlisted securities market this week.

Council's £23m refurb won't beat cockroaches

WANDSWORTH council may never be free of its cockroach problem on the Duddingdon estate despite plans to spend £23 million on a major refurbishment programme.

The 1,000-dwelling deck-access estate in Battersea has 15 blocks linked by aerial walkways which allow the crawling pests to move freely around the estate.

A scheme by Lyster, Orillet & Harding to break down the blocks into smaller units with less linking walkways will help, but the cockroach problem will never go away.

A council spokesman said Duddingdon was a good breeding ground for cockroaches, with its central-heating ducts, false ceilings and disused basements.



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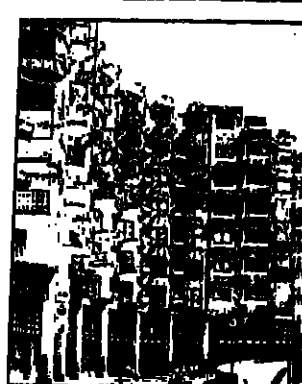
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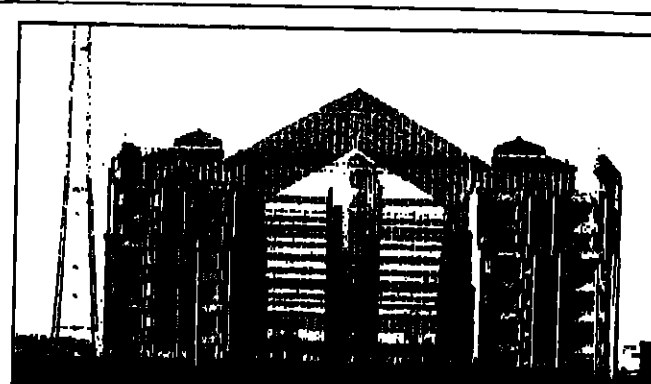
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Densberg town hall, 1964.



Low-rent housing, 1975.



Zueblin House, company HQ near Stuttgart.

Boehm wins the Pritzker

GERMAN architect Gottfried Boehm has won the 1986 Pritzker Prize.

This week's announcement makes Boehm, a third-generation architect from Cologne, the eighth recipient of the prestigious international award.

Jay Pritzker, president of the Hyatt Foundation which established the prize in 1979, described Boehm as "an excellent choice by our distinguished jury. Each of the laureates has been honoured for achievements demonstrating a combination of

talent, vision and commitment which consistently produces work to enhance the environment, and therefore humanity's

By Fiona Gorman

well. Boehm's buildings excel by all of these criteria."

Boehm, 66, was educated at the Technische Hochschule in Munich from 1942-46, where he earned a bachelor's degree in engineering, followed by a year at Munich's Academy of Sculpture.

His work, which is primarily in Europe, ranges from the simple to the complex, using many different materials with results that sometimes seem humble, sometimes monumental.

Described in the 60s as expressionist and more recently as post-Bauhaus, his architecture is so complex as to defy categorisation.

He prefers to be thought of in terms of creating "connections". These take into account the interaction of architecture with its urban context, as well as between form, material, colour of a building and its physical and cultural environment.

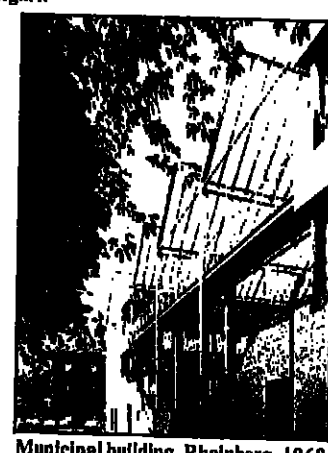
He recently wrote: "I think the future of architects doesn't lie so much in continuing to fill up the landscape, as in bringing back life and order to our cities and towns, which will result from respecting and making connections within their struc-

ture, function, building materials etc."

His design for the Bensberg City Hall for which he was internationally acclaimed, illustrates his ability to reconcile new with old, while his projects for the cathedral and Heumarkt area of Cologne, the Lingotto Quarter in Torino and city centre of Boston reflect his concern with urban planning.

Boehm was presented with \$100,000 at the Museum of Modern Art, New York at the announcement of the award last Thursday. A formal award ceremony will take place at the Goldsmith's Hall in London on May 7.

Boehm joins a line of four American Pritzker prize winners: Philip Johnson, Kevin Roche, I M Pei and Richard Meier, as well as Luis Barragan of Mexico, James Stirling of Great Britain and last year Hans Hollein of Austria.



Municipal building, Rheinfelden, 1968.



Church, Neuges, 1964.

Sale raises doubts on hospital restoration

CONSERVATIONISTS concerned at the future of Monkton House, the surrealist home of Edward James, will be decided this week after crucial meetings with English Heritage and the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

The trustees of the Edward James Foundation have offered the house to English Heritage — but only if it can match the £850,000 offer from a private buyer.

Save Britain's Heritage says if the house is sold to the unnamed buyer, "Edward James' unique creation is at immediate risk". The contents of the house, which includes furniture by Dalí, would be split up and sold by Christie's in June.

But the rescue package depends on English Heritage agreeing that saving Monkton House is part of its role. Some commissioners have argued that English Heritage should only acquire houses which are demonstrably in danger.

If English Heritage does agree to back a feasibility study, initiated by Save, which says Monkton can be opened to the public, it will be asking the National Heritage Memorial Fund to put up £1.1 million for the house and a limited list of contents.

Save president Marcus Binney said: "This is the tightest and most difficult deadline the heritage movement has ever faced."

Housing talks
THE World Organisation of Building Officials and the Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors are to hold a joint world congress in London in 1987, to tie in with International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

City reserve
AN acre of land in Kings Cross is to become the first urban site in London to be officially declared a nature reserve. The Camley Street Natural Park, where habitats have been created for nature conservation, was handed to Camden council by the Greater London Council.

White Lion Walk
Joint developers of the White Lion Walk, Guildford (BD49 18) were Tarmac Properties and Clayform Properties.

On the run
EIGHTY-TWO architects were among more than 19,000 starters in Sunday's London Marathon.

Monkton verdict imminent

A DECISION on the future of Monkton House, the surrealist home of Edward James, will be decided this week after crucial meetings with English Heritage and the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

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THE World Organisation of Building Officials and the Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors are to hold a joint world congress in London in 1987, to tie in with International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

City reserve
AN acre of land in Kings Cross is to become the first urban site in London to be officially declared a nature reserve. The Camley Street Natural Park, where habitats have been created for nature conservation, was handed to Camden council by the Greater London Council.

White Lion Walk
Joint developers of the White Lion Walk, Guildford (BD49 18) were Tarmac Properties and Clayform Properties.

On the run
EIGHTY-TWO architects were among more than 19,000 starters in Sunday's London Marathon.

Repairs bill spurs calls for more housing cash

PRESSURE on the Government to pump more investment into public sector housing is continuing to build up, spurred by new discoveries of the massive repairs backlog.

This week Birmingham City Council revealed that a survey of just some of the liabilities placed on the council by the 1985 Housing Defects Act will require the authority to spend around £30 million.

That is to fulfil its obligation to buy back Boot and Parkinson

likes of Sheffield, which has also just submitted another bid for more cash — this time to spend on private housing.

The city council wants to replace the existing individual grant system for private home improvements and replace it with a block improvement programme in six housing action areas, facilitating major enveloping schemes.

A report on private housing in the city, called "Taking Stock", reveals that the total needed to bring all private housing in Sheffield up to a reasonable standard would cost £600 million.

If the situation is not rectified within 10 years, wholesale clearance might be necessary.

More than half the 80,000 private pre-war homes in Sheffield were built before 1919 and many still lack proper bathrooms and inside toilets.

Present grant-giving systems probably will be unable to cope with the demand and the area improvement programme would be an easier way to administer funding.

A survey of housing in London shows 22 per cent of homes are in serious disrepair, needing more than £5,000 spent on them, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities said this week.

Council rejects 'awful' scheme

WOLVERHAMPTON architects The Mason Richards Partnership have had their design for a Barratt housing development in Chipping Norton rejected by West Oxfordshire District Council.

The mixed development of 59 terraced, semi-detached and detached homes was rejected for not keeping to the local vernacular.

Councillor Peter Burchett said: "The proportions of these houses are awful and need improvement."

A spokesman for Barratt said it would write to the local authority expressing its concern at the rejection and requesting further meetings. It would also lodge an appeal with the DoE.

Save looks for new Saltaire mill option

Save Britain's Heritage has launched a campaign to find a new use for the great mill at Saltaire, one of the most important model industrial settlements of the Victorian era.

Save says the mill, designed by Yorkshire architects Lockwood & Mawson in 1853 for Sir Flitot Salt, forms the centrepiece of the village, which has now been absorbed into Bradford.

It held a seminar last week at which options for the Italianate structure were discussed. It closed only two months ago.

Save considers the mill could be used for housing, workshops and leisure facilities, but central and local government help will be needed.

Saltire was built on a green-field site at the height of West Yorkshire's 19th century industrial boom.

The mill consists of the 45,000sq m Old Mill, which the heritage group is more optimistic of saving, and the slightly-later New Mill, which closed first and is now derelict.

RIBA programme highlights

THE highpoint of this summer's programme of RIBA events should be the 1986 convention, entitled "City Wise: complexities and contradictions in urban life".

Speakers include Rob Krier, Ken Livingstone, Clive Thornton, James Gowan, Rem Koolhaas and comedian Alexei Sayle. The convention takes place from July 10-12.

Earlier, Mario Bellini, architect and product designer, gives the fourth lecture in the AGB/ Westbourne-sponsored series on interior design on May 13.

On June 3, Professor Franz Schulze will deliver a centennial appraisal of Mies van der Rohe, and on June 10 and 11 David Owen MP and Observer editor Donald Treford will speak on "Corridors of Power: an environmental perspective".

Other lectures include Adrian Forty of the Bartlett school on Taylorism and modern architecture, on May 20.

A panel of distinguished female architects led by Jane Drew of Fry Drew Knight & Creamer will lead a discussion on women in architecture on April 29.

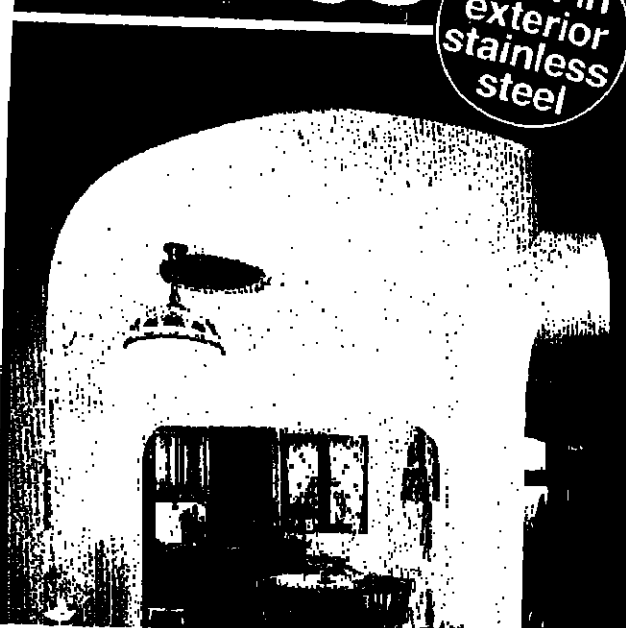
On May 6 there will be a film night including Bunnell's study of an architect, "The Criminal Life of Archibaldo de la Cruz", and a documentary about the development of the Odcon cinema style.

On June 3, to 26, the Society of Artists in Architecture will put on its annual show, and then from June 26 to July 26 there will be an exhibition called "London: images from the modern city", compiled by James Dunnett.

Further details, 01-580 5533.

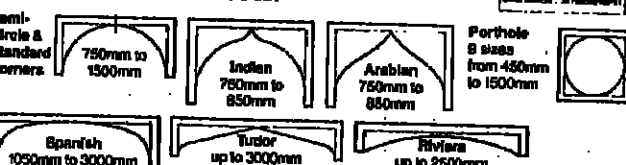
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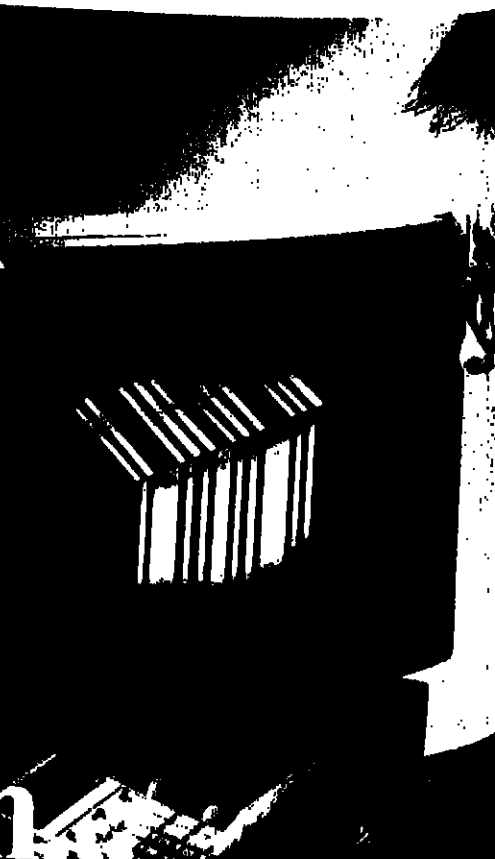
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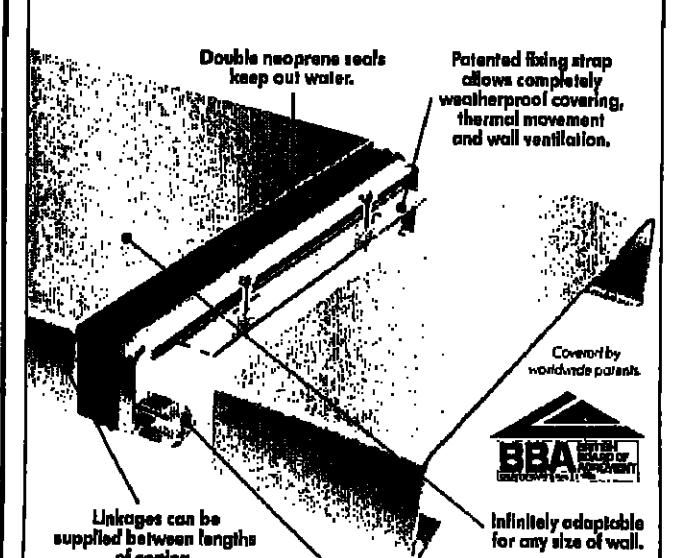
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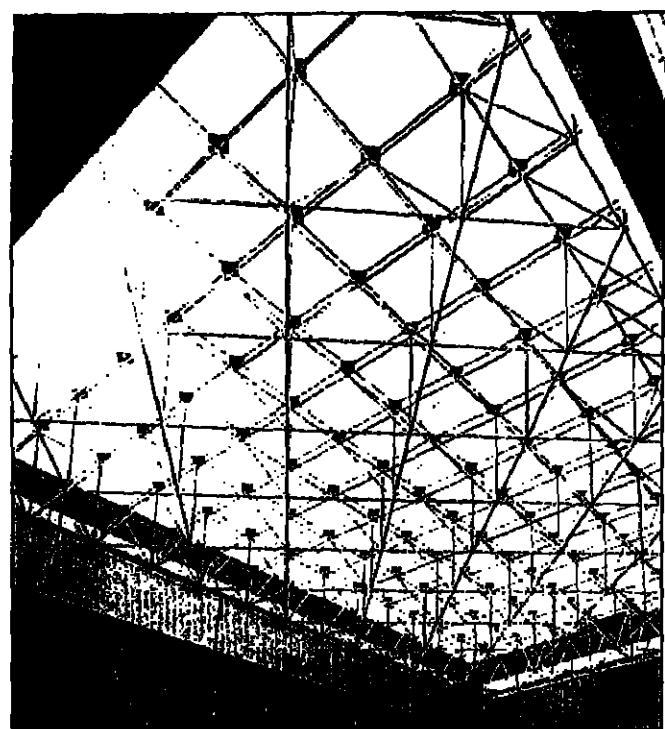
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News in pictures



Porsche styling

The first double version of the Planar structural glazing system has been installed at the new Porsche headquarters building, beside the M4 near Reading. Architects Dewhurst Haslam, assisted by Dennis Page, have used it in a central atrium. Page said it was a good development, but he would have used smaller supporting plates and lighter silicon jointing, on reflection.



Dublin refurb

Above: Dublin architects Patrick and Maury Shaffrey have drawn up this refurbishment scheme for Henry Street, Dublin's prime retail thoroughfare, showing how the shops on both sides can be upgraded.

Henry Street has significant architectural character and includes 18th and 19th century Georgian buildings and interesting examples of 20th century developments. "The plan for Henry Street is part of a total plan for Dublin and it may mark the beginning of a new atmosphere and appearance for the city centre," said Patrick Shaffrey. The scheme was commissioned by the Dublin City Centre Business Association.



Georgian splendour

Left: Anthony Clark Partnership/Wimpey Construction are involved in one of the most upmarket conservation schemes in the country with a Canning Street conservation project, Liverpool.

So far 24 houses out of about 100 have been restored to their Georgian splendour. The programme will take the project to funding. An 85 per cent grant from English Heritage, the owners — landlords, the association, local authority, owner occupiers — to bid a scheme. Extensive repairs involve: away unsympathetic alterations; major renewal of roofs, balconies, details.

Infill

Sites and sounds

By David Pearce



Architects as heroes yet again

IT can no longer be said that architecture is neglected by the national press. There is Amery being authoritative in the FT, Knevit enthusiastic in *The Times*, Gardner eccentric in the *Observer*, all sorts of people being responsible in the *Guardian* and *Sunday* latching on to everything stylish in the *Sunday Times*.

With one exception they are youngish and, in varying degrees, aware of nuances — both modern and post-modern. None of them now concentrate on conservation matters, which have increasingly taken a back seat.

Apart from the occasional splash by Stampor Young in *The Times* (though Young seems to have gone rusty) and the all too rare honeyed prose of Aslett, "heritage" issues seem to be covered by whichever planning, environmental or local government reporter picks up the press release from the desk.

But the case of our architect heroes is otherwise. Although Foster, Rogers and Stirling may not be quite so renowned as Johnson, Graves and Venturi, they are coming up fast on the outside.

Thank goodness the one concerning whose private life the public has been favoured with most detail is the most charming and, indeed, "youthful" (33 already Richard?).

Verily the media treatment of the three is mixed. Stirling, who contrives to be both fat and austere, is not understood at all (and anyway his best building is in Germany); Rogers is loved a good deal more than his Lloyd's building, whereas Foster is loved a good deal less than his Honkers & Shankers bank. Lloyds reviews have been very mixed (when does a vertiginous, glazed light-well become an atrium?), but praise has been ladled on the bank. Even Knevit seems to have been embarrassed by his own starry-eyed treatment of Foster's "masterpiece", so that at the end of his *Times* article he threw in a mild complaint about the lack of interior colour.

What no review that I have seen has tackled are the questions that I wanted answering: was it really only £500m? — much higher figures have been thrown about — and anyway, why build the capitalist world's most expensive edifice in a city due to go red in 11 years? Did the clients bargain for such a tab and what do they make of what they have got?

Where art thou Arnold?

THE Five Towns, discounting the vaguely romantic aura attached to them by Arnold Bennett, constitute in general a depressing urban desert. A century ago industrial success was expressed in a handful of proud municipal buildings.

Pride in architecture does not swell in the bosoms of councillors of the successor authority to the former boroughs, namely the city of Stoke upon Trent. Town halls at Longton and Tunstall — both unlisted, though in the first case inexplicably so — the grade II town hall at Burslem and the Queen's theatre there, are all threatened with destruction by council leader Ron Southern. He says of the theatre that it would cost a great deal to bring up to modern standards.

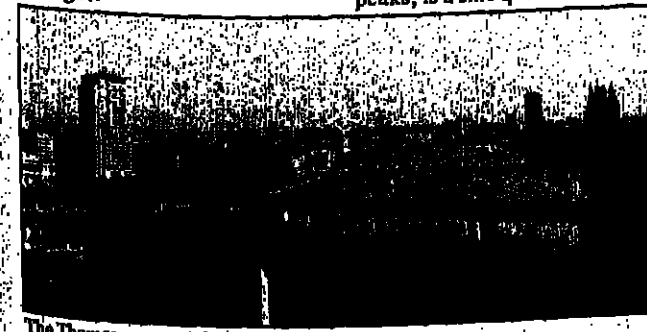
Local preservationists are fighting a rearguard action to save the imposing "local monument" at Longton, which is a hall in the literal sense, the former municipal offices being separate and already demolished, apparently. It is a handsome, stone-built, mid-19th century essay and, though lacking the Baroque exuberance of the hall in nearby Burslem, appears at least of the standard of the late-lamented Kensington Town Hall. A court case — wherein it has been argued that, since the hall was erected by public charitable subscription, it is not the council's to demolish — has been deferred.

More on riverbuses

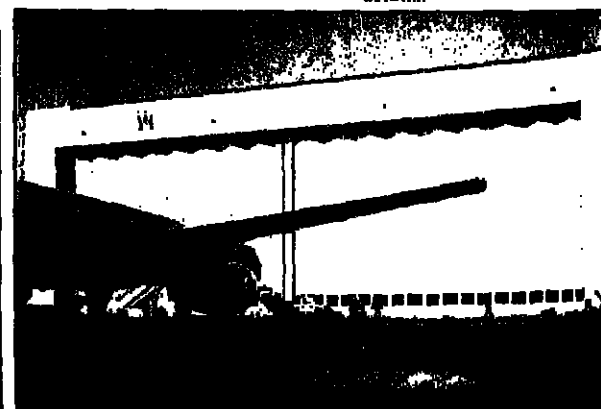
ALTHOUGH one of the best known and cleanest of the world's rivers, the Thames carries a derisory number of commuters or tourists. In 1984 there were 3½ million "passenger movements", less than the underground copes with in two days.

Despite an optimistic report in the *Sunday Times* last month, the Thames Water Authority is not about to launch a bus service, such not being in its remit. Having inherited nine piers and the barrier from the Greater London Council, the authority does, however, hope to encourage commercial operators to start such a service.

Problems in the past have included the lethargy of present river operators (there's a gentle word) and the discouragement of the considerable investment required to provide a regular service by the licensing system which has been on an annual basis up to now. A regular and timetabled service, perhaps with extra boats available for tourist peaks, is a sine qua non.



The Thames... an under-used waterway.



Variety show

Two jobs reflecting the huge variations in type of work for the traditional mind practice, in this case Tooley & Foster.

Above, the recently opened maintenance hangar for Monarch Airlines at Luton Airport, where T&F acted for Monarch in preparing the way for a design and construct contract, cutting the pre-contract period because of time shortage. This involved assembling a detailed brief, obtaining planning and Building Regulations permissions and Civil

Aviation Authority approvals. Elliott with the contract, and a pointed Pavell & Watson as a test for design development at detailed design work. While it represented the client.

Below, a proposal for 29 Flax Old Pye Street, London SW1 completes a development block of offices fronting Victoria Street. Tooley & Foster have designed units for the Crown Estate. Construction is due to start towards end of the year.



A peak of success

The topping out ceremony for the Fitzroy Robinson Partnership development was performed last week.

The development, with its unusual A-shape configuration, is being built by Trollope & Colls and will comprise 8,300sq m of office space over the top of the Fitzroy Robinson station.

Building commenced in August 1984 and the development is scheduled for completion in spring 1987.

BUILDING DESIGN

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The Editor's Comment



Portland Place politics

THE ambiguous nature of the motion allowed the RIBA establishment to wriggle off the education hook at the special general meeting last week. Inviting people to support a motion confirming the virtues of the Institute's charter is rather like asking the General Synod to confirm that it thinks sin is a bad thing. The near-unanimous vote does not remove the problem, since sooner or later the institute will have to take a stand on closures. What would its attitude be, for instance, if it were proposed that architecture should no longer be taught at universities, but should go exclusively to the polytechnics? The real objection to its vacillation on closures so far is the way it leaves the way open for further "surgery" by Government, which believes it is dealing with a tame poodle. It is surely time that Council debated a motion along the lines of: "This Institute opposes the closure of the NELP and Huddersfield schools because the criteria for the closure recommendations are irrational and objectionable. It calls

on the Government to open discussions over the basis for any future review of architectural education and affirms its wholehearted support for every architectural school in Britain." Even if the Government appears intent on closing at least two schools, this is no reason to give in (look at what happened to Sunday trading). And it is not too late for council to refurbish the tarnished image of the institute in the eyes of the schools. Having said all this, it is also time for the institute to take a more direct interest in what is being taught in the schools, and to consider what will be required of qualifying architects in the next two decades. This is easier to achieve coming from an institute which shows it has the interests of the schools at heart, and not its own estimates of how the professional numbers game is going to turn out.

On the subject of fence mending, the powers that be might also consider whether it is wise to pick fights with people it should be supporting, and who should be expected to give support in

turn. Rod Hackney's ambition to become president of the International Union of Architects is being opposed on flimsy grounds: eg he is not a president of his national institute. If Hackney has been good enough to be given British support up to the level of UIA vice-president, he is certainly good enough to get backing for the job. Indeed, he would make a refreshing change from certain unmemorable recent past-presidents.

It is also time that some of the unbelievable bickering between Portland Place and community architects was ended. It takes two to start an argument, and the community lot are not entirely blameless. But the institute should be big enough to stand back and support people who want to get things done — both internally and externally.



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Letters

Misappliance of science

From H I Meyer

I MAINTAIN and will continue to maintain that Alice Coleman abuses the scientific method in precisely the same way as the judge did in the after-dinner story to "prove" that the French Revolution was caused by the habit of giving children three names.

This 19th century judge reasoned that since Charles James Fox, Richard Brinsley Sheridan and Theobald Wolfe Tone were all rabid Republicans and revolutionaries, and since William Pitt, Edmund Burke and John Scott were all eminent Conservatives and monarchists, the practice of giving children three names would turn a whole generation into Jacobins.

But as Macaulay went on to say: "If the learned author of the theory about Jacobinism had enlarged either of his tables a little (my emphasis) his system would have been destroyed. The names of Tom Paine and Wil-

liam Wyndham Grenville would have been sufficient to do the work."

All I was attempting to do in the experimental method of Lord Bacon was to "enlarge the tables" a little in poor Alice's restaurant. I drew her attention to the facts of crime, vandalism and destitution outside of the tables she had limited herself to. I am then berated for "contorting myself with three cases only, which are too few to make an impact".

Impact? I refer Coleman to the recent report of the Islington Borough Council on "Crime in Islington", in which, as featured in a recent BBC1 "Panorama", no correlation was established between crime, vandalism and housing design and location. If anything, muggings seemed more prevalent in the better neighbourhoods. Rural crime is another example that would seem to have little to do with housing design. Indeed, an

interesting theory or hypothesis in crime correlation might be to table the extent of crime to the proliferation of motorways and the development of the car. Again, where does housing design feature?

Coleman cites, once again, Hunt Thompson's Lea View Estate. This poor old example is in danger of becoming an "anti-Utopian" totem, what with royal visitations, ministerial praisings and media over-exposure, but by another "happy accident" the Lea View project is something I do know something about, having been at Hackney during its inception and being responsible for the construction of the contemporary architecture (ergo Utopian?) rehabilitation of Wigan House directly adjacent to Lea View.

I could construct some very interesting tables for my annex to Alice's restaurant of "Design disadvantage theory". My tables would deal with some real variables, like political action, the involvement of DoE "enablers", funding limits and rate-setting priorities, which I submit are the real determinants, pace Coleman, of the inner-city council house design process.

The appointment of Cleve Barr to the DoE in the early

1980s and the subsequent implementation of the ICY1 "cust-yardslicks" and the augmented subsidies for high-rise lift access blocks has more to do with the disasters of inner-city housing than all the echoes of "Modern Movement utopianism and its arrogant self-esteem in squandering wealth in building doctrinaire environments", so unscientifically and so emotionally berated by the professor of land use at King's College.

I cannot believe that even the slightest touching on real social problems, which I have endeavoured to highlight in my criticism of Coleman's work, can do harm to any rightly conceived scientific project, but if I have even enabled some people to question the wisdom of tackling massive social problems by counting litter, graffiti, vandalism and excreta, my work is done.

H I Meyer
London SW6

Save us from amateurism

FROM CEDRIC PRICE
SOMEONE must rescue Save from its staggering amateurism and slipshod behaviour (April

11). My quite detailed proposals for Hampton Court have, for obvious reasons, never been released, nor has anyone from Save ever approached this office (why are its spokesmen always anonymous?).

The proposals related only to the many times altered top floor of Wren's south wing, reinstating the Cartoon Gallery and the facades, and are based on impeccable first-hand evidence of the fire damage.

Buildings should show their fortunes and misfortunes: this is what history is about. Would Save rebuild Colleshill or straighten-up Corfe Castle?

"Potty" we may be, but not "sloppy".
Cedric Price
London WC1

Practical deficiency

FROM C WYCLIFFE NOBLE
YOU cannot on the one hand expose in your *Infill* column the problems that have emerged by inadequate academic training of students of architecture and on the other hand in the same issue (April 11) highlight the extreme measures taken to select for employment quality appli-

cants, without wondering what has gone wrong.
Many practitioners are bewildered as to why student architects are so ill-prepared to match contemporary requirements when there is so much evidence of unemployment in the design and construction industry.

Unless there is a return to the recognition of an adequate form of training in which the practical as well as academic issues are combined, the profession could well face the disastrous consequences of an increasing workload which cannot be completed satisfactorily with adequately skilled personnel.

To put it simply, when will the RIBA, and indeed your paper, wake up to this issue?
C Wycliffe Noble
Sunbury-on-Thames

Letters

Letters should be typed double-spaced on one side of the sheet and sent to: The Editor, *Building Design*, 26 Calderwood Street, London SE18 6QH. We reserve the right to cut or amend correspondence.

Letters

Mediocre home for Drawings

From Margaret Richardson

I WOULD like to comment on the plans you recently published for rehousing the Drawings Collection within the main RIBA building.

The intention is to fit the collection into No 68 Portland Place, the building adjoining the 1934 headquarters. RIBA members and the interested public should realise that the collection will not be housed in Wornum's splendid institutional rooms but in the next-door house, which was built in 1958 specifically to provide offices for a growing bureaucracy.

No 68 Portland Place is a mediocre building, with low ceilings and small regular windows. It does not even make for ideal office accommodation, let alone for prestige rooms to house what is virtually a "national" collection of architectural drawings. No amount of gutting, tasteful grey paint or red hi-tech door handles will disguise its inadequate architecture.

The collection needs a mix-

ture of spacious display and study rooms and functional storage areas. It collects paintings and models as well as drawings — and sculpture, drawing instruments and office furniture — all highly visual items which need a sympathetic background.

Secondly — and this is a serious point — No 68 Portland Place only offers the collection enough space for expansion for another five to eight years. By about 1995 it would be severely restricted. It is a growing collection; it believes in acquiring the best examples of architecture in each decade to represent the best architects in every field. Sometimes it acquires a complete office archive, sometimes a drawing for one scheme. That is what it ought to be doing, but it will need space and room to manoeuvre.

Thirdly, if the collection returned to No 68 Portland Place it would lose the separate identity which is so important for any museum today. To attract sponsorship is a tricky

thing. Would potential donors give money to a collection that was a mere department of a library — just "rooms off" a main building? Could its reputation as a great international collection survive under these circumstances?

I can, however, fully understand why the RIBA wants to bring the collection back to Portland Place and I have always supported the idea of an architecture centre. It needs — obviously — to display the visual assurances of its past and to hold regular exhibitions of quality. But it could do that without spending £2 million and without "bringing the drawings back". It could hang the drawings all over the building and display models on stands; it could even designate one of its committee rooms (for example, the South Committee Room) as a modern collection and store and display 20th century drawings and models — decked out in best Ungers style. All this could be done now.

Finally, if the council cannot find the space to give the Drawings Collection a worthy setting at Portland Place, it should explore other more sympathetic venues — either on the South Bank or at Portman Square itself. The great Adam Square next to 21 Portman Square will be available soon when the Courtauld Institute

moves to Somerset House. If given the independence and backing it deserves, the collection could become a complementary part of the architecture centre planned for Portland Place and a real credit to the institute and its members.

Margaret Richardson
London NW1

Parasitic speculation

From Mario Maestranzi

ONE has some sympathy for architect/developer John Davison (April 11). His design for 10 flats on a site in Hertford failed to receive planning consent on the grounds of over-development, so he sold the site off at a profit, with permission for eight dwellings only.

It must have seemed very fishy to him and extremely annoying to discover later that the new developers managed to obtain consent for 10 flats when they submitted an apparently crummy scheme prepared by technicians. The Ombudsman was called in and he was right to tell East Hertfordshire District Council to apologise for its daft inconsistency.

One has no sympathy at all, however, for Davison's claim to recompense for loss of investment value and it was a relief to

read the Ombudsman did not support such a complaint. It seems the second-rate developers, with their second-rate scheme, resold the site for £40,000 profit and it was part of this unearned increment that Davison wanted in his pocket: it was not enough that he had already made a profit earlier, on the increased site value, when his development company sold off the land.

This small incident illustrates the easy money that is made in land transactions when planning consent releases the inherent value in a site. But the figures involved are peanuts compared with the deals being made in the South-east, where the cost of land currently represents up to 40 per cent of the sale price of dwellings and, predictably, that percentage will increase as mortgage rates come down this month.

One hopes, some day, the climate of the times will shift so that we shall want to install a government which has the strength to tackle the virtually irresistible vested interests in land, "who grow richer in their sleep without working, risking or economising".

We may then see legislation enacted to get rid of the most damaging parts of current fiscal policies with their disincentives and waste. Let them be replaced by a heavy tax on land values so that the parasitic business of

land speculation is choked.
Mario Maestranzi
London N10

Stopping the fire hazards

From Michael McCafferty

MAICOLME Gordon's "Stopping the rot" in frame buildings (April 11) succinctly yet comprehensively considers the perils of rot in timber-frame buildings. But what about stopping fire?

In relation to potential hazards in timber-frame buildings over recent years, I have partly walls, perforated services, some have not, have vertical (as well as horizontal) fire stops, some not; some have half-hour resistant doors to kitchen living room, some have some have self-closing doors to the kitchen and living room, some have not.

The last two most additions are considered: potential of flash fire, or spontaneous ignition of materials away from the source of fire; potential for highly insulated, low thermal capacity dwellings.

Michael McCafferty
Derry
Northern Ireland

Opinion

Some felts are more equal than others

I FOUND your March "Roofing & Cladding Supplement" most interesting. While I have no quarrel with the sentiments expressed in articles on flat roofs written by various representatives of the manufacturing industry, I would like to redress the balance and contribute some comments on the issues raised, this time on behalf of the users, especially as the article by Martin Thomas refers to one of my articles on the quality problems of flat roof membranes.

I also represent the RIBA on the BSI committee (SAB/1) which dealt with the revision of BS747:1977 *Specification for Roofing Felts* and the inclusion of a new Class 5 of the polyester-based felts. I feel there is a great need for clarification and amplification of the "behind the scenes" problems connected with the revision of this particu-

lar standard.

The first important point of issue is the clear understanding by the designers and specifiers that the revision of BS747 with its additional Class 5 is based on the lowest common denominator of quality of polyester-base membranes. The inclusion of Class 5 felts in the current BS747:1977 does not alter the fact that this class of felts has almost no physical or chemical affinity to other classes of felts, identified as Classes 1 to 4A/B, save for the coating material — "bitumen". Indeed, the chemistry, composition and manufacture of the new generation of base materials for the roofing membranes, starting with Class 5, are so different and diverse in nature that in my opinion they should have a separate BSI Standard.

The "traditional" Class 1 — 4A/B felts could be made by any roofing manufacturer of felt membranes to formulas that have no hidden background of

Jan Sliva puts the architect's case in the debate over flat roofs.

advertising their "new" polyester felts as being "better" than the "old" BS747 types. It was a poor attribute just being "better".

Yet it must be stated that many felts of Classes 1-4A/B have performed quite well when the designer was aware of their limitations, detailed the flat roof design in a "fit for purpose" manner, the felt was laid by a competent and reputable roofing contractor and the weather was ideal. In such circumstances the membrane acted simply as a water shedding "umbrella", without having to take on any — even minute — stresses of the roofing structure.

Thus, with a great deal of luck and a good measure of judgment, such felts could have lasted for quite a long time. But such happy coincidences were often

hard to come by and failures galore occurred.

Unlike the Class 1-4A/B felts, which had uniformly weak base chemistry, composition and production — in general, they were (and are) weak in tension, compression and impact and their "wear and tear" characteristics are so bad that it is hard to comprehend why so many manufacturers were fond of material — the more recent generation of roofing felts based on the chemistry of synthetic fibres have no common or standardised method of composition and manufacture. While it would be perhaps carrying things a trifle too far to use the old adage that they are as different as chalk and cheese, in the overall assessment of their claims of performance and reality of their make up, the old

saying could just about fit the bill.

With so many variations on the "polyester" theme, I felt some clarification should be offered to the user in the revised BS747 and I regret that my effort to insert a kind of "health" warning in the "Foreword" of the revised BS747, Class 5, concerned with polyester felts did not materialise.

Nevertheless, I feel that I should quote the passage I originally proposed: "The addition of polyester-base felts to the existing range of BS747:1977 has been prepared to assist designers and specifiers in understanding the basic facts about the polyester-based felts used as structural reinforcement to roll-form bitumen membranes. Apart from the standard mass/area ratio under Item 7.2.1 the actual contents, composition and amount of binder vary between Category 1 and Category 2 and these variable factors will accordingly reflect in and affect the performance in use of these two categories of polyester felts. The designers and specifiers must assess therefore the relevant requirements of the particular concept of the flat roof design and select the appropriate type of membrane system which is best suited to his design requirements."

The statement was simply a warning to the designers and specifiers that, although it may be claimed by manufacturers that all new BS747 polyester felts are equal, I submit that some are more equal than others! Even the term "some" could be reduced significantly! In other words, the designer of the flat roof structure must do a great deal of homework to seek and find a fit for purpose polyester-base felt. I would venture to say that he must do more advance assessment than ever before.

As to the research work into the best buy, it is my sincere opinion that the time factor, ie the trouble-free track record of the manufacturer, should play the dominant role in any evaluation.

The next stage to follow will

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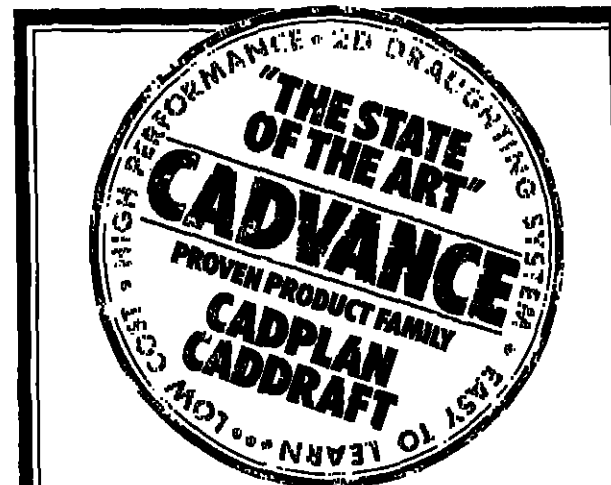
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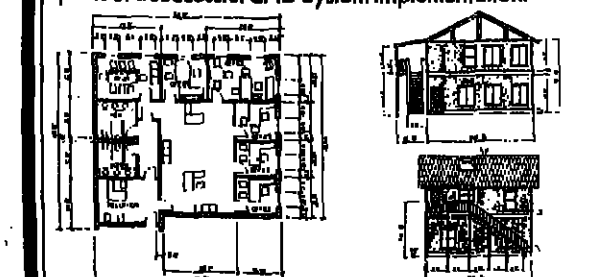
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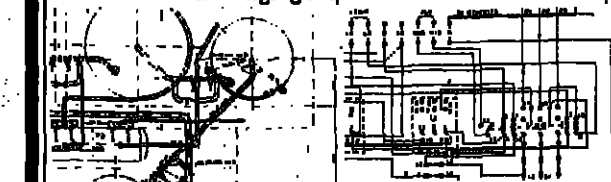


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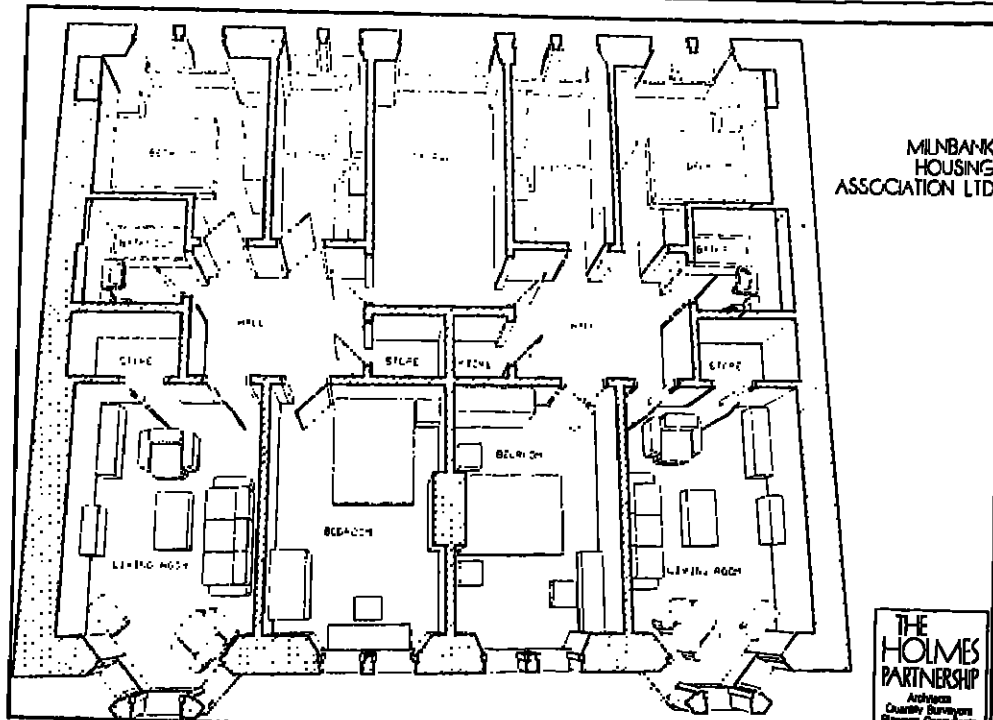
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Overhead view of tenement dwellings in Glasgow, rehabilitated to designs by the Holmes Partnership. These three-dimensional plots are produced using McDonnell Douglas CAD software. The practice turned to computers because of the repetitive nature of much of the tenement

rehab work it was undertaking, though identical designs are unusual. The practice comments that the system chosen allows information already stored to be easily juggled to take account of new factors.

Costing programs — every office should have some

Richard Twinch looks at developments in computer software. He discusses job costing, while overleaf he examines a new package.

JOB costing (seeing whether you are adequately covering costs, and resource analysis (how to make best use of your staff), is recognised as an essential part of office management, and there are several competent software programs that deal with this area.

In part it is the intelligent use of earlier software, the precursors of today's systems, that has

generated the present climate of acceptability. At the recent RIBA/CICA exhibition at the Barbican, software showing job costing was the only software strongly represented on microcomputers, apart from 2D and 3D CAD in its many guises.

Three systems in particular displayed (and have proven) competence, and yet exhibit remarkably different philosophies. At last we are moving into an age when software can be selected not just on the grounds of "Does it work?" but on the criteria "Does it suit our office?" These three systems are Arena, Buttress and Archaid32.

Arena was initially developed in-house by Clive Nicholson Associates, a small architectural practice in Cambridge. Arena 1 (first known as Sofa) was developed initially by Sarah Nicholson (herself an architect) on the Apricot, to resolve all the practice's management requirements. So successful was this that it was marketed and has sold some 30 programs in two years.

However, with the development of cheaper hard disc storage, bigger memory and the need to expand the system (which had begun to "creak at the edges") Arena Software Ltd was set up and Arena 2 was developed using a high-level language (Modular 2—Pascal) which allows implementation on a wide range of hardware including IBM and compatibles. Arena prefers to use the Apricot—in particular the new Apricot Xen.

The philosophy behind Arena is to provide a complete set of software that will deal with all aspects of the management of an office from job costing to writing letters, setting up drawing registers, arranging the senior partner's diary and doing the accounts (which at present are single entry).

Being a completely integrated system, Arena offers many benefits, such as transfer of costs to job expenses when the drawing register is being used. Not only is there costing of drawings for the client, but also parallel costing for internal accounting purposes. Certificates can be drawn up and architect's instructions issued from within the system, with information taken automatically from the relevant job files.

The cost of a system varies from £2,240 to £6,405 for hardware, with £2,700 for the software, though this may be bought in modules. A recent costing for a practice of 12 people running 300 jobs including maintenance, training and word-processing came to just over £9,500 (+VAT), though this did include £1,295 for a good letter quality printer. The cost of buying a second system is the same for hardware, and some £1,900 for software. The author's suggestion is to network Apricot Xens about a mini-computer.

It is in answer to just such a situation, where many people wish to use the system simultaneously, that Buttress has

been developed by Data Computing. This program was written so it can be run on any mini or microcomputer under the Unix operating system (or Xenix on the IBM compatibles). The benefit of the system is that it is designed the start to be "multi-user". For instance, once the main processor and large (36 mb) disc storage is in place, terminals can be added at the cost of the terminal.

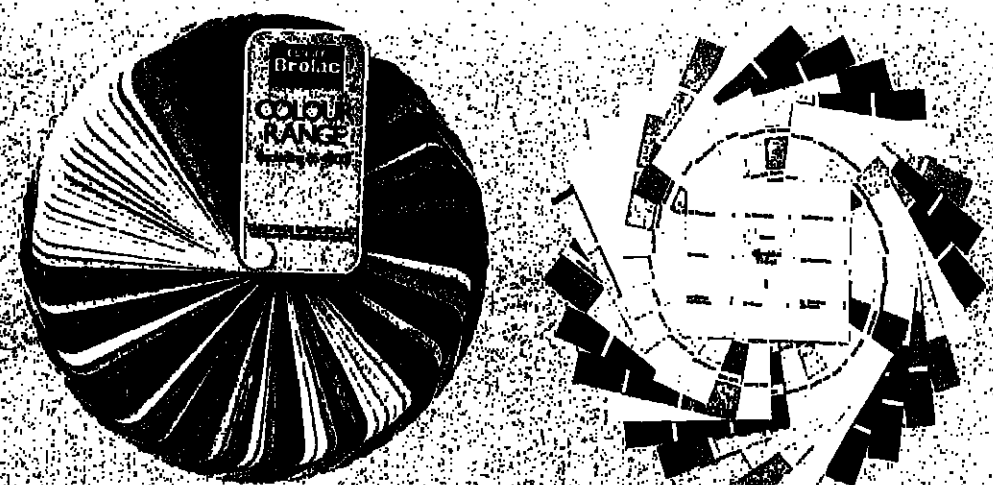
Buttress is designed especially for job costing and resource analysis, and exhibits fast word processing through Unix operating system. In such a system successfully really need somebody who make the best use of the operating system. Once grasped, it is assured of great benefits.

Buttress is initially noted as a typical system costing £10,000 being made up of £10,000 hardware and £5,000 for software, which also includes accounting. However, if purchased, the benefit is that an additional £1,000 (depending on hardware) can have an additional terminal and can arrange for different functions (eg putting in sheets and printing management reports) to be carried out simultaneously. Some modules (eg the Systime IT with up to allow many more users) others (eg IBM AT with up to three).

Reports are the key feature of any job costing resource analysis program. At the end of the day these present the information upon which decisions are taken. Computers can often do generate huge amounts of spurious information, but selection of the information required to make decisions the presenting of this in a specific job/group of jobs is most important. Report generation is where Archaid32

Archaid32 is the result of more than two years of development on the Macintosh by CIC Software. CIC has been writing management software for architects more than five years, and Archaid package on the Mac. He has been selling some 50 or so architect's systems, which incorporate job costing with full "double entry" accounting. It is the experience of five years development, combined with extraordinary abilities of Macintosh operating system which has resulted in Archaid. The marketing is carried by Applitek, a well-established software/hardware supplier in west London.

Archaid32 is dedicated to detailed job costing and cost analysis, and leaves management functions such as accounting, word processing to other software, which is the Macintosh operating system and huge (1 megabyte) memory can appear as if switched between programs through the intermediate aptly named "Clipboard".



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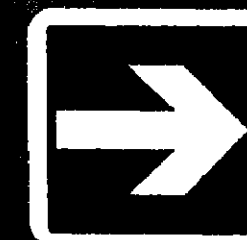
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Computers

Cheap systems help the faint-hearted take plunge

from page 14

"Notepad" and "Sketchpad". Specific functions such as drawing register, certificates, A1's etc. are being dealt with by an additional software source (AIMS), though it is quite possible to set these up for yourselves using standard spreadsheet or database programs.

As mentioned above, the great strength of Archaid32 is in user definable reporting. This allows selection of any data generated by the software to be displayed in any format, and selected under specific criteria if required, eg job architect, date of completion, all jobs that are running behind schedule.

The software incorporates a "knock-on" approach to estimating progress on a given job by estimating the percentage deviation from target, and then showing the effect on the particular stage and job as a whole.

The full system (with colour printer) costs just over £4,500, of which £3,210 is the hardware. For additional systems (the hardware cost remains the same, but additional software is £520 (for writing and reading) or free (for reading only). Training is an additional £300 for 12 hours spread over three sessions to

help you at critical points along the learning curve, which is surprisingly short.

There are also three further established software programs in this area: Prophet, Tech Computer Office, and Spirex. I have not been able to examine these programs in any detail, but the presence of at least six strong contenders in this area is indicative of the importance of using computers for job costing and resource analysis.

For further information contact: Archaid32: Jane Clark, Appltek, Felgate House, 6 Studland Street, London W6 0JS. 01-741 5411. Arena: Sarah Nicholson, Arena Software Ltd, 3 Rayleigh Close, Cambridge CB2 2AZ. (0223) 68354.

Butress: Maxwell Graham, Definitive Computing Ltd, Unit 17, Premier Partnership Estate, The Leys, Brockmoor, Brerley Hill, West Midlands DY5 3UP. (0384) 261 727.

Prophet: Nigel Charlesworth, Charlesworth Computer Systems Ltd, West Mews Calcot Grange, Reading, Berks. (0734) 411 336.

Spirex: Bensasson & Chalmers Ltd, 6 King's Parade, Cambridge CB2 1SJ. (0223) 315 733.

Tech Computer Office: Stuart Beatty, 6 The Green, Richmond, Surrey. 01-940 7182.

UNDOUBTEDLY the first requirement in any office (large or small) is word processing. It has been a mystery to me that there are still very many architectural offices that have not yet come to terms with this most accessible and useful side of information technology.

Perhaps it is the jargon and mystification weaved around computers that has prevented many from taking the plunge, and perhaps others have been prevented by the initial cost — having not directly experienced the enormous gain in productivity that word-processing brings.

This has now all been changed by the meteoric arrival of the Amstrad PCW 8256, which comprises a 256K memory

coupled with an integral 90 character monitor, dot-matrix printer and inbuilt 400K floppy disc drive.

This is not by any means a "cutting-edge" technological product. All the technology it incorporates has been around for three years or more. What is new is the marketing. Simply, it is a triumph of packaging and presentation, where others have pushed forward the technology of the chip, Amstrad have put together a complete word-processing system for less than £400.

It is indicative of the shift in the computer industry that Clive Sinclair has now been effectively bought out by Amstrad, confirming this triumph of marketing and packaging over technology for technology's sake. When asked what processor the

PCW 8235 uses, Alan Sugar, the managing director and major shareholder of Amstrad, said he did not know. A nice story, but whether true or not it is indicative of a move towards pragmatic solutions — which harness established technology.

The word-processing software, "Locoscript", is easy to learn, and there is a great benefit in having the printer linked to the system from the start — for instance messages (such as "Ball-bar back") indicate precisely the readiness of the printer to print. The printer produces close to "letter quality" print by typing over the letters twice, which makes printing fairly slow. It is easy within the software to change the size and type of character (the font) within a given range and set up "template" files where for instance the heading of a chapter will always be large. The fonts include emphasised, italicised and bold lettering. At present no other printers can be linked into the system (a daisy-wheel is best for presentation purposes), but this may have changed by the time this comes to print.

What is not so easy to understand, largely because of shortcomings in the manual, is precisely how the program stores its data. If you have used early versions of Wordstar the format is recognisable — though the command structure when editing text is far simpler on the Amstrad, which makes full use of "arrow keys" and "pull-down" menus. Locoscript is file-orientated, ie a file is set up or loaded in before text is edited. Files can either be set up on disc or in memory, and can be shuffled from one to the other quite simply. A disadvantage of the software is that all editing and file handling operations appear to be separate, which is a discipline one has to learn to accept when buying a word-processing system for £400.

The use of the internal memory "disc drive" is clever — particularly since these machines to date have only one floppy disc drive. The internal drive operates just as if it were a second drive, provided the power stays on (a problem if running the system off a generator, as I was in setting up a system for the Chisholme Institute in Scotland). The Amstrad thus has many of the advantages of a two-disc drive system.

It is worth mentioning the disc drive specially. The reason that such a good drive is found in such a cheap machine is that they are part of a job-lot bought up from a Japanese company that failed with a 3-inch floppy disc micro. Herewith another stroke of marketing flair. It is these 3-inch drives that are found in the Amstrad, together with the special 3-inch floppy discs — which are not the industry standard (3½ inches). A word of warning: buy plenty of spare discs. Nobody quite

knows where other 3-inch discs will come from once the current stock dries up — no doubt Sugar will ferret around the world computer stock rooms in search of alternatives. Otherwise the sheer success of the system — particularly if it can succeed in the States — will probably encourage the remanufacturers of the 3-inch disc.

The PCW 8256 has just been given the *Sunday Times* Microcomputer of the Year Award (small business and home computers). In addition the new two-disc drive version has been announced, and there are rumours that there is a hard-disk drive in the offing.

The system runs the CP/M operating system, so theoretically it is possible to have software transferred across.

One difficulty of transferring complex design software is the cost expectancy of the end-user who does not reckon to pay more than 30 per cent of the hardware cost for a piece of software. This attitude is one that will change in time as it is realised that a box without software is worthless, and that cheap software (unless addressing a mass market such as word-processing) is of little value.

Although the high street stores sell the Amstrad, I would advise buying from a well-credentialed computer retailer (one of the large national stores such as Microworld).

There are better computers and better word processors — but at nowhere near the cost of the new Amstrad.

Computer events

THE Construction Industry Computing Association (CICA) is planning the following events:

April 28: Purchasing and managing CAD systems.

April 30: Drafting special interest group.

May 15-16: Managing with microcomputers in construction.

May 21-25: Planning with microcomputers.

May 23: Property management and building maintenance.

June 6: Content of computer courses.

June 17-19: Structures '86.

July 6-9: 5th International symposium on the use of computers for environmental engineering related to buildings.

For further details contact CICA, Guildhall Place, City Bridge CB2 3QQ.

The RIBA Services are running microcomputer software demonstrations at RIBA on Thursday, April 24, Friday, May 23 and Tuesday, June 1. For further details contact Marian Jani, 01-636 4108.

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Planning

Inspector overrules council

AN enforcement notice alleged that there had been a breach of planning control in that in the conversion of farm buildings to a dwelling at Low Towhouse, Barkerhouse, Nelson, there had been the installation of:

- bargeboards and projecting purlins on the east dwellings and on the porch erected on the east elevation of the dwellings;
- single light window frames in the first-floor windows in the east elevation of the dwellings; and
- glass blocks in the former ground-floor windows in the southern elevation on the two dwellings, all without permission.

The notice required the removal of these. The approved drawings showed openings in a wall "to be walled up" and it was submitted by the appellants that the use of glass bricks complied with that. But the inspector with delegated powers held that "in the circumstances of this converted

barn, with walls built almost entirely of stone, it would be unreasonable to conclude that either 'walling up' or 'bricking up' would result in panels of glass blocks".

However, he did say: "These matters are to a large extent matters of opinion, and the department's Circular 22/80 advises that the control of external appearance should only be exercised where there is a fully justified reason for doing so."

"The bargeboards on the porch and above the east elevation are, in my view, quite dominant features of the relatively light coloured stone buildings. Visually they attract the eye away from the much lighter roof-line of the listed buildings, and in doing so thereby detract from the setting of the building. (I do not consider that the same can be said of the bargeboards on other elevations, and I therefore propose to grant permission for the retention of those."

"The windows, particularly those on the first floor of the east elevation, are noticeably different from those in the listed building and in my opinion emphasising the more modern appearance of the converted barn."

Appeal decisions



"This also applies, however, to the ground-floor windows, albeit they are less prominent, and I do not consider that replacing the first-floor windows with frames having more pronounced vertical bars would significantly alter the fact that the materials of the walls and windows of the converted barn are all more recent than those of the farmhouse, and of a more modern appearance."

"The very fact of converting the barn, which is set forward of the farmhouse, must inevitably have some adverse impact on the farmhouse, but in my opinion nothing less than the use of stone mullions (which are not required by the council) would materially affect the relationship between the dwellings."

He therefore granted planning permission for the retention of all the features objected

to by the council, except for the bargeboards on the east elevation. T/APP/E2340/C/85/433. Pendle BC.

Thatched roof hazard

AN application to rebuild a fire-damaged cottage, which was a listed building, changing the roof covering from thatch to secondhand clay tiles, was refused by Chichester District Council. The cottage was at 105 St Paul's Road.

The secretary of state allowed the appeal after written submissions by the appellant's solicitors and a visit by a DofI inspector.

He decided: "Apart from the effect which a tiled roof would have on the historic quality of the building, an important material factor in these appeals is the fact that, as experience has clearly shown, a thatched roof in this location would constitute a potential fire hazard."

"The secretary of state appreciates that precautions could be taken to reduce the risk of fire, but he shares the inspector's view that extension of the

chimney stack as required would over-emphasise to a degree which would be detrimental to the character of the building."

"He therefore regards potential fire hazard as a justification for permitting replacement of the thatch with tiles." APP/L3815/A/85/03403. Chichester DC.

Tile appeal rejected

PLANNING permission was refused for the replacement of thatch on the listed House, West Burton, Sussex, by hand-made tiles.

The secretary of state, receiving the report of the inspector, dismissed the appeal. He said he agreed with the inspector's appraisal, particularly that the loss of the thatch, in replacing existing thatch with tiles, would be detrimental to the character of the listed building. APP/L3815/E/85/0006. Chichester DC.

Threat of dereliction

"It is agreed that sufficient land has been made available within the Chichester district to meet the housing allocation specified in the approved structure plan for the five-year period to 1989," reported an inspector who held an inquiry into the appeal of E.H. Bradley Estates Limited against the refusal of planning permission for residential development on Pontins Holiday Centre, East Wittering.

He added: "However, Circular 15/84 advised that the existence of a five-year supply of housing land is not in itself a reason for the refusal of permission and Circular 14/85 makes it clear that the provisions of the development plan are only one material consideration."

He recommended that as there were no valid planning objections, the appeal should be allowed.

The secretary of state agreed, and added: "Much weight has been placed on the importance of avoiding dereliction on the site, which is likely to occur once

Pontins have left; this would pose a real and significant threat to the quality of the landscape." APP/L3815/A/85/032093. Chichester DC.

Room at the inn

THE Hermit Inn at Higham, Barnsley, was granted planning permission for the erection of a games room extension.

It was subject to the condition: "The development shall be carried out in strict accordance with the plans and specifications hereby approved."

It was alleged by an enforcement notice that there had been a breach of this because an open archway linked the two areas.

But the inspector who heard the appeal said: "At the end of the inquiry, however, it was conceded by the council that the works referred to in this application did not, after all, amount to development requiring planning permission."

"They were internal works that did not affect the external appearance of the Hermit Inn. Quashing the enforcement notice, the inspector said:

"Condition 2 is a once-and-for-all condition which, once complied with, ceases to have any effect upon subsequent works that may be carried out. A condition could have been framed expressly requiring the maintenance of the wall and door as a sound-proofing measure." T/APP/B4405/C/85/1262/P6. Barnsley MBC.

Rivals in appeal

THE inspector with delegated powers was faced with two appeals for the redevelopment of a site at Redcote, Melford, Surrey, following the demolition of an existing block of flats.

The first was for the erection of 31 dwellings, of which 16 were flats, the second for 22, included six one-bedroom bungalows. There were 57 parking spaces in the first scheme and 55 in the second.

He said: "The main issue in each case is whether the appeal proposal constitutes over-development, which would affect adversely the visual character of

the area, the amenities of nearby residents, and result in an unsatisfactory environment for those living in the proposed development."

He reported: "The proposed car parking would be in front of or at the side of the proposed dwellings. As a result, a high proportion of the open areas around the building which are visible from the estate road would be hard-surfaced, and would be used for the parking of cars."

"Scheme 2 proposes 19 two- and three-bedroom houses, in terraced form, and three flats; unlike Scheme 1, it proposes no reduction in the size of the car park which serves the existing block of flats. A significant proportion of the car parking is located behind the buildings in courtyards."

"The third difference between Scheme 2 and Scheme 1 is that the only trees covered by the tree preservation order which would be affected are a limited number of the line of cypresses in group 1. While this is undesirable, it is not sufficient on its own to justify withholding planning permission, especially as new planting is proposed in close proximity to the trees which would be lost as a result of the development."

He wrote: "The first question to be decided is whether the appeal site falls within the boundaries of the village of Wivelsfield Green."

He therefore granted planning permission, subject to conditions, for the second scheme. T/APP/R3650/A/84/023677. Waverley BC.

Housing allowed

"THE county structure plan for East Sussex provides that, in named villages including Wivelsfield Green, small-scale housing development and infilling are permissible in certain circumstances," reported an inspector who held an inquiry into the refusal of Lewes District Council to grant outline planning permission for the residential development of land at Albion Nurseries, Wivelsfield Green.

He wrote: "The first question to be decided is whether the appeal site falls within the boundaries of the village of Wivelsfield Green."

"The purpose here is to decide which policy of the structure plan applies, and therefore whether residential development may, in principle, be appropriate. The policy presumption is

that the land defined as outside the village will not be developed, and will remain in its present use."

"Albion Nurseries are at present hardly used at all. The glass-houses are in a ruinous condition and much of the site is overgrown with scrub and brambles, although a few vegetables are grown in the south-western corner."

"I consider that the derelict nursery makes little or no contribution to the countryside, and that the structure plan seeks to conserve the landscape and character."

"In any event, Wivelsfield Green is characterised by estate development, and it can be seen that about half the houses in the village are in the Downsview Drive/Allwood Crescent development, immediately to the west of the appeal site."

"The number of dwellings remains to be settled, but there was no evidence to show that, purely in numerical terms, a further 20 houses would be out of scale with the settlement or place an undue strain on existing services."

Exercising delegated powers, he granted permission subject to approval of the details. T/APP/P14251/A/85/036484/2. Lewes DC.

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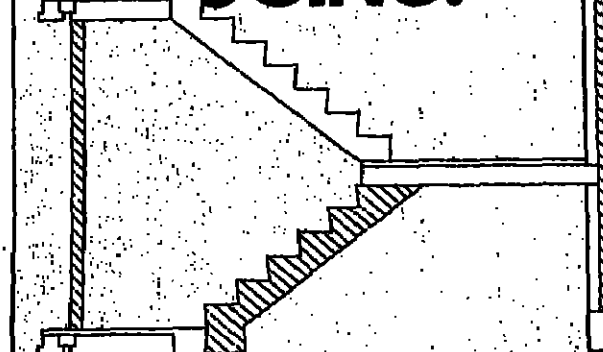
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Two local architects have developed the abandoned Victorian King John's Chambers in Nottingham. It is now a shared workspace for designers and craftsmen. James Luce reports.

THE SHARESPACE OF NOTTINGHAM



New neon sculpture by Colin Jones marks the arcade entrance.

KING John's Chambers, a grubby Victorian building in the centre of Nottingham, had been empty for several years when it was discovered by two local architects. By developing a range of design, management and entrepreneurial skills, they were able to transform it into a thriving piece of the city.

The building, which contains about 12,000sq ft of space distributed on a mixture of three and four floors, is located on Bridlesmith Gate — a much used pedestrianised street which links two major shopping developments. This, together with the fact that many of the neighbouring properties were already being improved, was a

significant factor which made this particular building an obvious case for treatment.

The potential of the building for development was enhanced by its basic physical form. It was made up of a four-storey block facing onto Bridlesmith Gate and fronting two long, parallel three-storey wings. These two wings extended the full depth of the site and were separated by a narrow pedestrian alley which linked streets at the front and back of the site.

Local architects Andrew James and Tim McArtney had wanted to be actively involved in the processes of change and renewal in Nottingham and originally had plans to develop a building in the Lace Market nearby. This scheme did not

materialise, but they discovered 13-15 Bridlesmith Gate.

Within the basic shell of the building there was a range of internal spaces of differing shapes and sizes. While the front block, with its generous projecting bays and dormers, provides opportunities for large square work spaces, the long narrow plans of the two back wings were well suited either for ranges of rooms or single open spaces. A regular grid of windows onto the pedestrian alley also provided levels of lighting and outlook which were appropriate for offices, small workshops or studios.

Although the alley was grubby and unused, it did provide a direct link through the block from Fletcher Gate to Bridlesmith Gate and the step down in level between those streets provided direct access to the ground floor at one end and first floor at the other. Two bridge links across the alley provided lateral connections between the wings of building at first and second floor levels.

The internal refurbishment and improvements were designed to create a range of units within the shell. These vary from a tiny 329sq ft space on the ground floor to the 1,368sq ft office above, which is occupied by the James McArtney Partnership. The design initiatives which these architects brought to the project were significant. All of the interior spaces were upgraded to a high standard of finish. Careful choice of materials, colour schemes and graphics helped to create a sense of a working community. The project was called Sharespace.

But it is perhaps in the design of the external spaces that the architects made the most significant impact. By repaving the alley in white and grey tiles, adding planting, external lighting and a simple glazed vault along the length of the alley, it has been transformed into a bright and lively arcade. Graphics for hanging signs and elegant historic markers, together with a vital mix of retail uses

at ground level, make this area at the centre of the project and active focus for staff and visitors alike.

The symmetrical form of the facade to Bridlesmith Gate suggested an entrance and in order to emphasise the arcade, a neon sculpture was commissioned from Colin Jones. After a series of design studies the artist's final proposal was for a 10m neon and steel structure which forms a canopy over the entrance to King John's Arcade. The sculpture hangs from the soffit and is made up of a series of neon tubes with a wide colour range and switches in sequence from orange through the spectrum to pale blue.

The Sharespace project was developed in four stages planned over several years. The first phase, which included the refurbishment of the first, second and third floors of the front block, the architects worked with the owners. In when estimates for the second and third phases were produced the owners sought to sell the property. Eventually the sale was carried out with conventional capital provided by the Greater Metropolitan Pension Fund. James McArtney Partnership were paid to act as architects and project managers. The refurbishment of the back wings was finally completed in 1982.

This locally initiated scheme was one of the first shared workspace projects outside London and one of the first to obtain building funds from a major institution in the private sector. Now, seven years after the project was launched, the building houses a collection of designers and craftsmen working in computer graphics, musical instrument making, repainting, architecture and graphics with retailers selling toys, food, knitwear, clothes and furniture. The original concept behind Sharespace — "to establish a group of small firms with a common link through some aspect of design to work under one roof with shared services" — is indeed a valid one.



A view towards Bridlesmith Gate — the arcade used to be outside.

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Owen Williams

Owen Williams

Dennis Sharp concludes his two-part appraisal of the work of Sir Owen Williams with an examination of his projects for the Empire Pool and the Pioneer Health Centre at Peckham.

THE PROPHET OF CONCRETE

BESIDES the Wembley Exhibition, the Boots buildings at Beeston and the three *Daily Express* buildings in London, Glasgow and Manchester, Sir Owen Williams designed two other important innovative structures: the Empire Pool and the Peckham Health Centre, both of which achieved international recognition.

There were many other structures — including some fine bridges — but these are insignificant compared with the originality of his approach to the new problems of the age. His output was impressive and, as he worked only with small teams, his personal touch is to be found in most of his projects. In scale of

jobs and client satisfaction he outstripped most of the architects working through the enterprising 30s.

Here was a designer carrying out the much-vaunted, clear-minded rational architecture demanded by the Modern Movement's founders. Here, indeed, was "The Engineer", whom Le Corbusier decreed would assume the mantle of the moribund architect. But Williams never became a card-carrying member of any group, nor did he — as far as I know — acknowledge his debt to Le Corbusier, or anyone else. He was in a true sense a self-made man answerable to no-one. He was never a member of the English MARS Group, nor affiliated to an architectural institution,

other than that of the Naval Architects. Yet he was seen universally as one of the most successful representatives of the new architecture in England with his work displayed in such influential exhibitions as the one sponsored by the Museum of Modern Art, New York, with the British Council, in 1934.

So where does Williams fit into the scene? What were his background and aspirations? How did he find such a successful formula for the new architecture based on good design, social cohesion, structural performance and spatial organisation? These are the sort of questions being asked by a new generation of designers who view his work as significantly more than the tip of the iceberg

of British Modernism of the 30s. We can go some way in answering these questions by reference to the facts, but for most of them one is concerned with speculating on the buildings themselves and on the few lectures, short speeches and articles that Williams himself prepared.

Although he appears to be Welsh in name, Evan Owen Williams was born in Tottenham, London, in 1890. He was educated at Tottenham Grammar School and studied engineering part-time at London University, from where he gained a BSc in 1911. From 1905 to 1911 he also served as an apprentice with the Electric Tramways Co in London. In 1912 he worked as an engineer

for the Trust Concrete Co (later, Truscon) but a year later became chief aeroplane designer for Wells Aviation Ltd. During the First World War he worked on concrete ships. He set up in practice in 1919 on his own account. A couple of years later he was made chief consulting engineer to the British Empire Exhibition, a position he held until 1925.

From the beginning of this important appointment he sought to pioneer concrete construction in its mass and reinforced forms. In 1923 his "raw" work was exposed to a critical public at the newly opened Empire Stadium. It was itself an opening salvo in a discussion that lasted well up to the time of MI work in the post-war period. Initially his philosophy was almost entirely based

on a typical British pragmatic approach to both subject and material. With experience — particularly of large-scale structures — his attitude to the use and finish of the new material developed. He expressed a great interest in economy and efficiency in construction.

Commenting on the construction of the enormous 125,000 capacity Empire Stadium, designed with the British architects John Simpson and Maxwell Ayrton, he spoke of the need for economy in the construction of such huge buildings, particularly those which had to be erected on limited budgets for exhibition purposes. Talking at the AA in 1925, he said: "An exhibition was naturally handicapped, particularly in its earlier stages, by lack of funds, and every device had to be adopted which would save money."

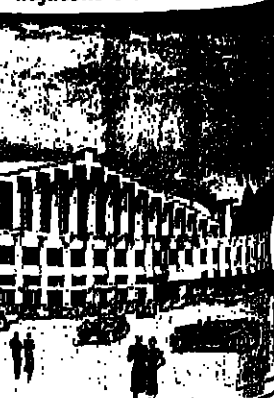
Thus, for Wembley he chose to construct two major structures for the United Kingdom's exhibits — both of very large proportions — rather than a series of smaller ones: "Had eight buildings been used for housing the United Kingdom exhibits instead of two the additional cost would have been

something like £150,000." The wider layout issues of the exhibition site were capital of solution on a gigantic scale.

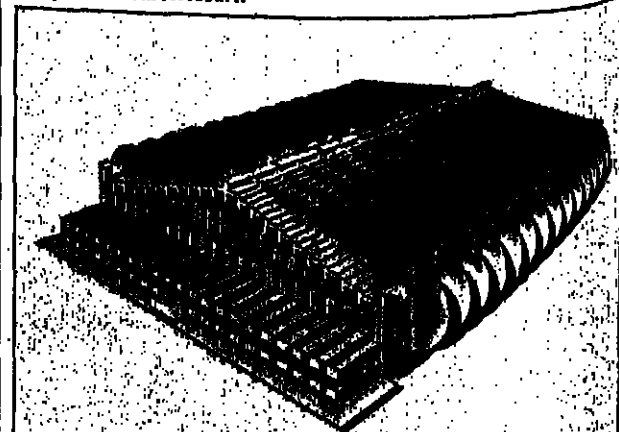
The original layout of Wembley consisted of the two giant Palaces of Industry and Engineering, as well as enormous "balancing lake" served as a reservoir for the water and the rainwater off the roofs of the stadium itself. The nature of this layout can be observed on the site today: the great Wembley Stadium plays an important part in Britain's sporting calendar. Although its actual capacity is somewhat less than originally anticipated, it remains one of the most popular arenas in the world.

Its construction exploited ideas borrowed from historical examples, particularly Greek and Roman amphitheatres whose great semicircles of seats were often carved straight out of the Earth's crust. At Wembley the excavations for the huge bowl of the stadium were used as a filling on which were forced the concrete staging for the seats.

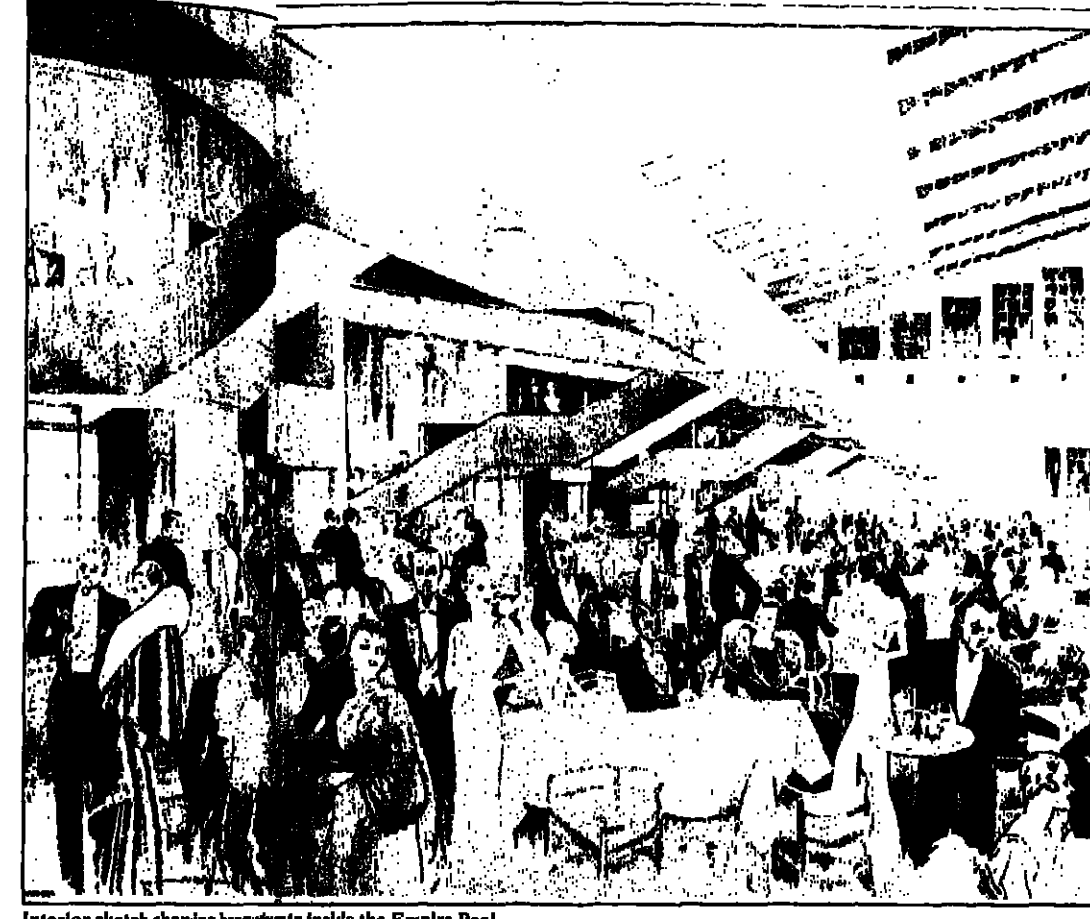
At the exhibition in the adjacent Palaces of Industry



Perspective from forecourt.



The original for the Empire Pool showed the beams terminating as concentric discs in this sketch by Norman Howard.



Interior sketch showing headquarters inside the Empire Pool.

the flooring was in a non-reinforced concrete slab only 4 inches thick formed on a filling between brickwork piers at 8ft 4 in centres. After the concrete had set, the filling itself fell away from the slab, leaving it as an elementary and economic flooring membrane.

The use to which Williams put concrete construction was dictated by government legislation and policy. In the first half of the 1920s brick was reserved for house building and concrete for

industrial construction. Williams, writing on this topic in an article in *The Times* on November, 1924, deplored this situation and argued for a more adventurous use of concrete because the "efforts to increase house building have failed, principally because of the deficiency of bricklayers". Concrete, he argued, might well be used as a substitute for bricks in house construction (as it had been in the USA and as it had also proved its worth in industrial building).

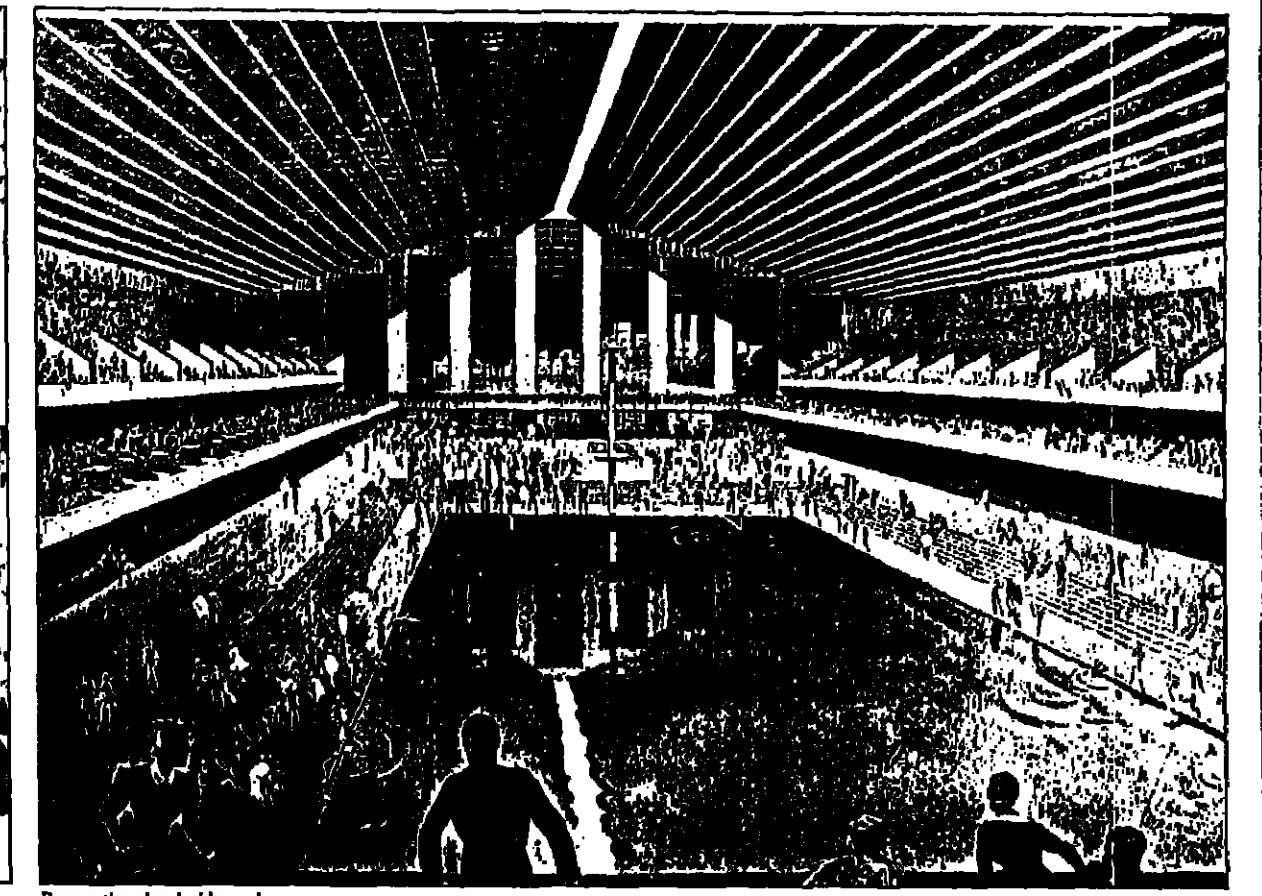
It was precisely in this latter area that Williams was to make his mark. Here he came close to forming a basic philosophy for concrete design — at this stage, before his pioneering work for the Boots company — at least, insofar as housing was concerned. "What would a concrete house look like?" he asked in his *Times* article. He gave his own answer: "... We must think of a world accustomed to concrete construction before bricks. The methods of manufacture and the peculiarities of the material would have stamped the house with forms peculiar to the material, and who can say what kind of house this would be?" He went on: "It would not in any way resemble a present-day brick house, but it would be no less beautiful, because it would be the true development of the material."

In this important article he described the cultural significance of the two materials and their application and use in domestic architecture. Drawing again on historical precedent, he postulated: "Side-by-side with concrete houses would have grown up different domestic habits... the use of concrete for housing as it should be used involves something far greater than the mere transposition of the construction of one material to another. It may mean a far-reaching change in the social life of the country." He proceeded

to indicate the nature of the types of form changes he had in mind: "... paper house in Japan, mud house in Africa, and wigwams of the Indians: each a distinct type evolved by the available material, and no more reproducible satisfactorily in bricks than a brick house in concrete."

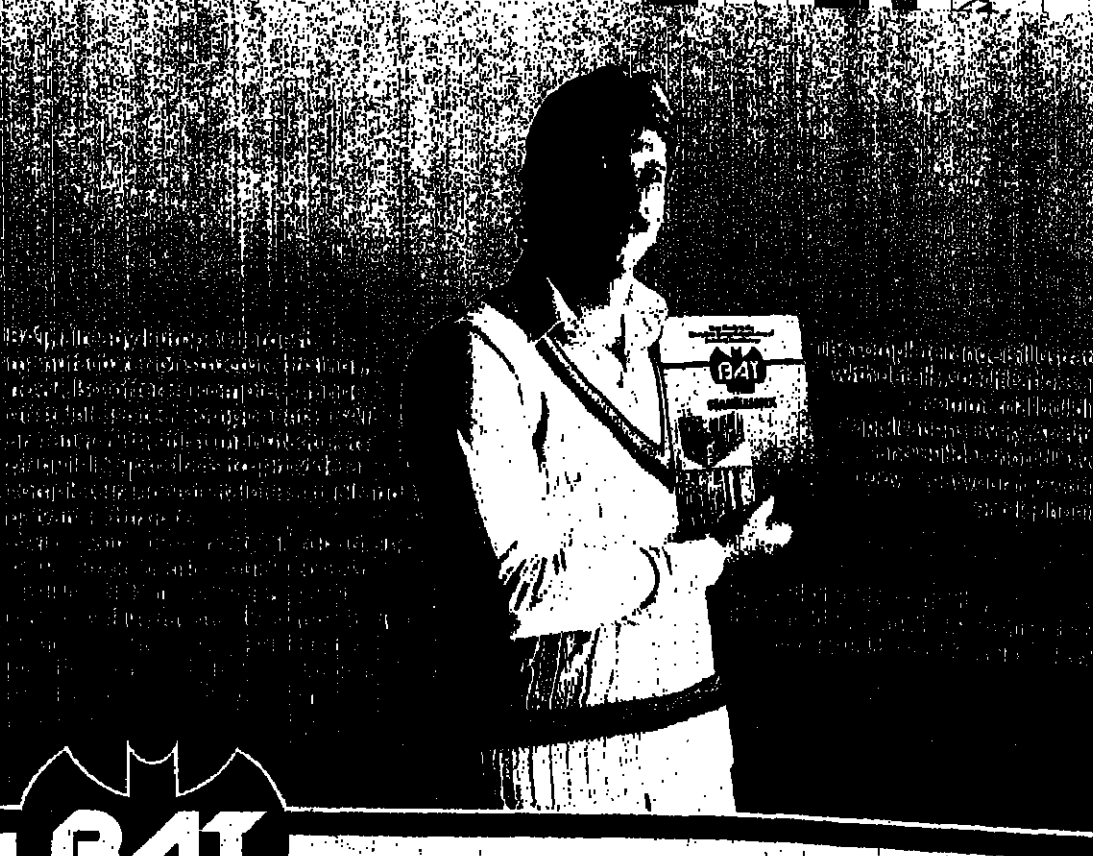
Having employed in his arguments the precedents of history, of house form and culture, Sir Owen built them up

continued page 24



Perspective view inside pool.

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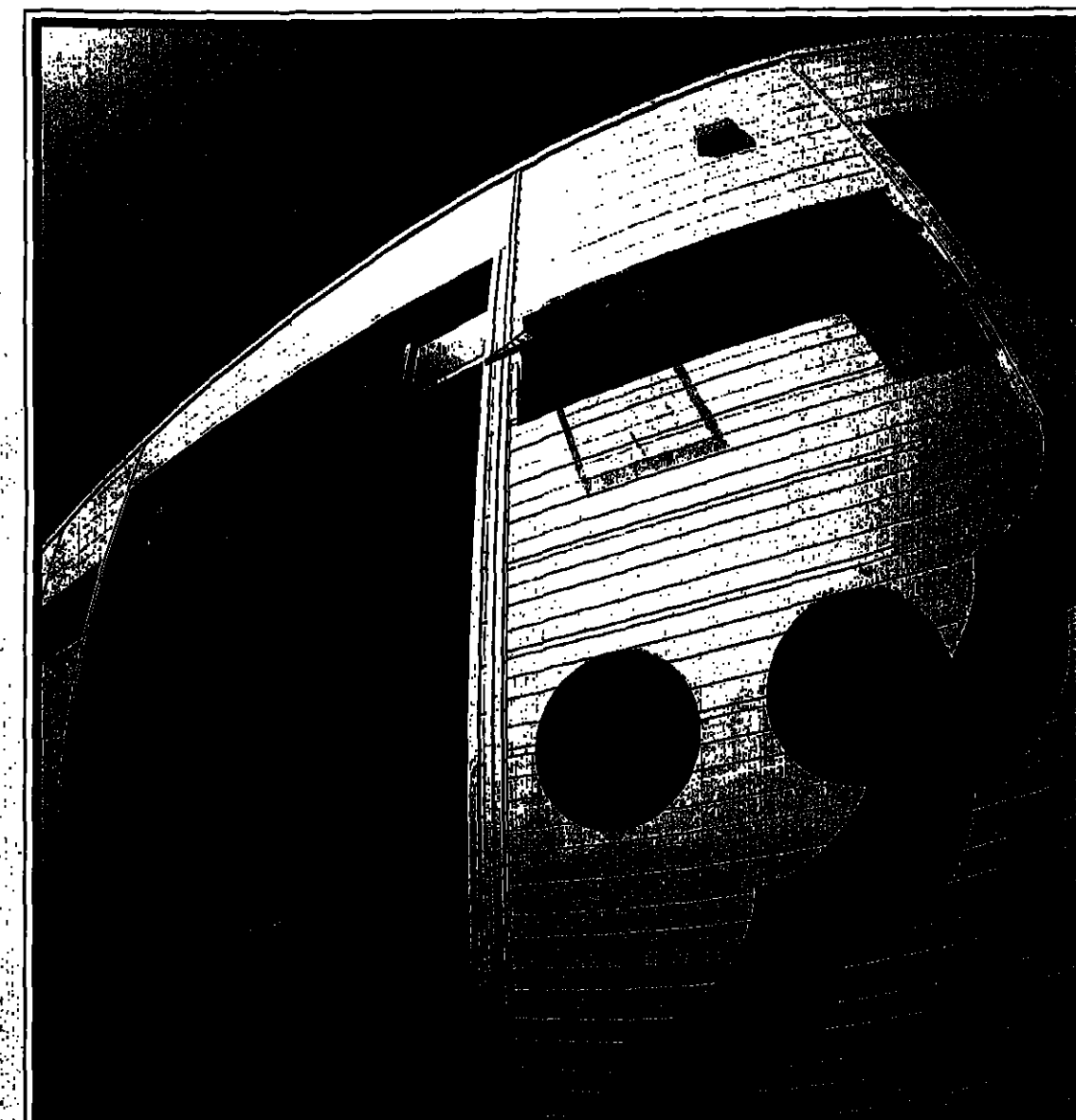


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Owen Williams

The prophet of concrete

from page 23

to form his main point: "Concrete is a contemporary (material) of the industrial era." It was this new industrial fact of life which called for new types of buildings that would, as he said, "make demands in strength and height which must be satisfied economically... to use concrete for modern structures is to put it to its natural use." Throughout the rest of his long and effective career, Williams' views were put to the test, whether for prefabricated concrete houses, concrete ships, motorways or the brilliantly innovative projects of an architectural character for which he is justly well remembered.

After 1929 he worked less frequently with architects, choosing to act as architect-designer and engineer-consultant on many projects. He was, as we might now say, "his own man", designing and consulting on a variety of projects from inception. Some he lost. The story of the first design by Williams for the new health centre at Peckham, London (designed with Dr Scott Williamson) represents his most original contributions to the new architecture.

These pioneering structures testify to Williams' unswerving faith in reinforced concrete and its practical use as a material and to the cause of functionality in design. The Empire Swimming Pool and Sports Arena was officially opened by the Duke of Gloucester on July 25, 1934, at

Wembley, Middlesex. The new building — situated next to the earlier Empire Stadium erected in 1923 for the British Empire Exhibition — took the form of a huge arena covering about 2 acres. Set out on a unit of construction of 2ft 9in (the width of the spectators' terraces) the whole structure was 420ft long (including annexes, back and front) and 240ft wide. The swimming pool (200ft x 60ft) ran the length of the building and could be decked over to take an ice-skating rink (200ft x 85ft) or a tournament area (300ft x 85ft). The pool itself, which had a maximum depth of 16ft, was situated on the ornamental lake

designed originally for the 1923 exhibition. The total number of spectators for international and championship swimming events was rather more than 8,000, with parking facilities for 2,000 vehicles. Promenade restaurants ran down the long sides of the pool. The vertical dimensions of the building were divided into 3ft units. A further subdivision of these dimensions, 1ft and 6in respectively, gave the dimensional limit of the treads and risers of the stairs. This met the local technical requirements and also produced the rake of the spectators' terracing.

The pool itself was one of Williams' most spectacular designs, providing what was at the time one of the largest covered arenas in Britain. The structure was in reinforced concrete and all shuttering was arranged on units of 2ft 9in horizontally and 3ft vertically, all dimensions being multiples of these lengths. The most notable feature of the first scheme was the roof supports, which were in effect three huge hinged arches cranked in order to allow space for the cantilevered galleries inside the arena. Huge beams ran down from the centre hinge in this first design to end on great curved semicircular ribs shown on the original drawings they gave the appearance of great modern streamlined flying buttresses.

There were to be 14 of these great half-plates on either side of the building. They were to return underneath the galleries and down to a 4in edge beam on the mass concrete foundations which acted as a second hinge. Work began on the site in October 1933 to an altered design. To coincide with the foundation work, a promotional booklet was issued by the Wembley Stadium board of directors, for whom Williams acted as engineer. In this brochure the Empire Pool (as it later became known) was promoted as the "sports centre of the Empire". In the brochure, too, it was estimated that the cost of construction was about £150,000. It was built by Holloway Bros (London), who successfully completed the contract in July, 1934, ready for the British Empire Games aquatic events at Wembley in August.

As well as a flexibility of plan intended to accommodate different sporting events, it was anticipated that the Empire Pool would also become one of the most popular social rendezvous in the country. A dance floor was situated on each of the

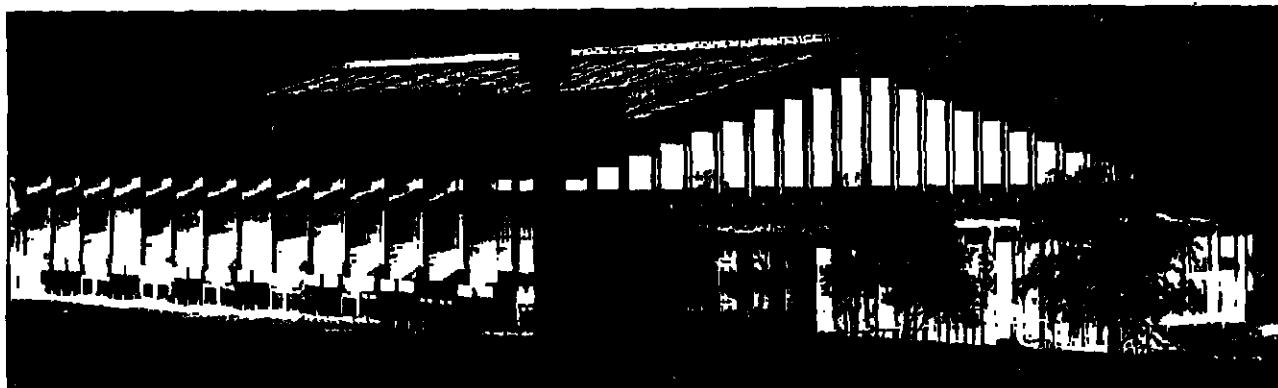
wide terraces and fully licensed refreshment rooms and cabaret areas were included in the plan. It was also anticipated that, because of the size, situation and the comfort levels of the building, it would become a suitable arena for boxing and equestrian events, trade and industrial exhibitions, circuses, agricultural shows, demonstrations and public meetings. According to the type of event, the total seating capacity could be increased as necessary to 12,000.

The great ribs were squared off and much criticised for their heavy appearance. But the building again became an international success from a sporting and from an architectural point of view. With the Pioneer Health Centre, Williams was dealing with an altogether different kind of problem to those he had met at Beeston and on the Daily Express Fleet Street building. Based on the new socio-medical ideas developed by biologists Dr J Scott Williamson and his wife, Dr Innes Pearce, as early as 1926, Williams had to come up with a unique building.

Medical community buildings were few and far between and there were no real precedents to draw upon. Drs Williamson and Pearce wanted to create a new scientific centre in which routine health observations formed an important part of its work. They chose a site in Peckham, London, because it was seen as representative of a socially mixed and stable area with a high predominance of blue-collar workers; also, it was not depressed like some of the East London inner areas.

In 1926 they opened their first centre, run from an old house along the lines of a family club. Their experiment was a bold and adventurous one that received a good deal of publicity through the publication of their own first polemical book *The Case for Action*, (1931). In this book they spoke of the frustrations that had developed through the cramped conditions of their first family club. It indicated that they were looking for something much more expansive, purpose designed and made, and which could be seen to "symbolise" the new social concern expressed through their observations and ideals.

A year earlier, the architect E B Musman (whose later Comet Hotel, Hatfield, and toothbrush factory, Hertford, show a designer well tuned into the period) had designed a substantially sized pioneer health centre for the Williamsons. It was designed along formal symmetrical lines and its layout and plan appear something of a compromise between a super cinema and an Easton & Robertson exhibition pavilion. It was very British and, not surprisingly, exhibited in the Royal Academy Architecture Room in 1930. But behind its formal brick-work facade this three-storey building incorporated in its layout all the expanded needs devised by Williamson and Pearce for their pioneer health centre. The various requirements included a centrally placed swimming pool, a full-scale gymnasium suitable for events such as boxing matches, but with a dance floor, reading



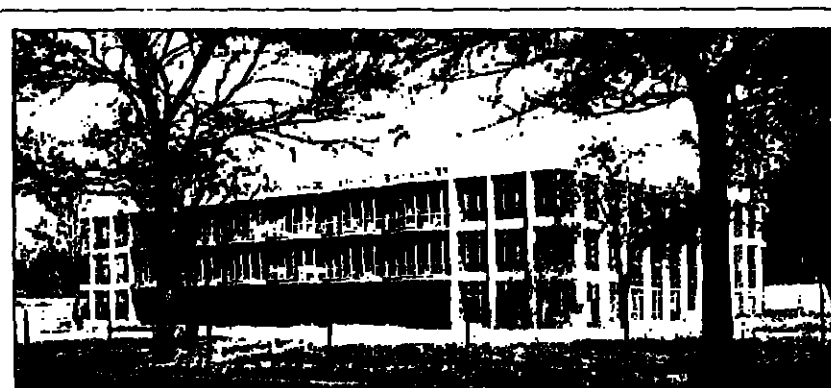
Empire Pool, Wembley — night view taken in 1936.



Peckham Health Centre — night view showing terraces and the undulating balconies.



Peckham Health Centre, a night view.



Daytime view.

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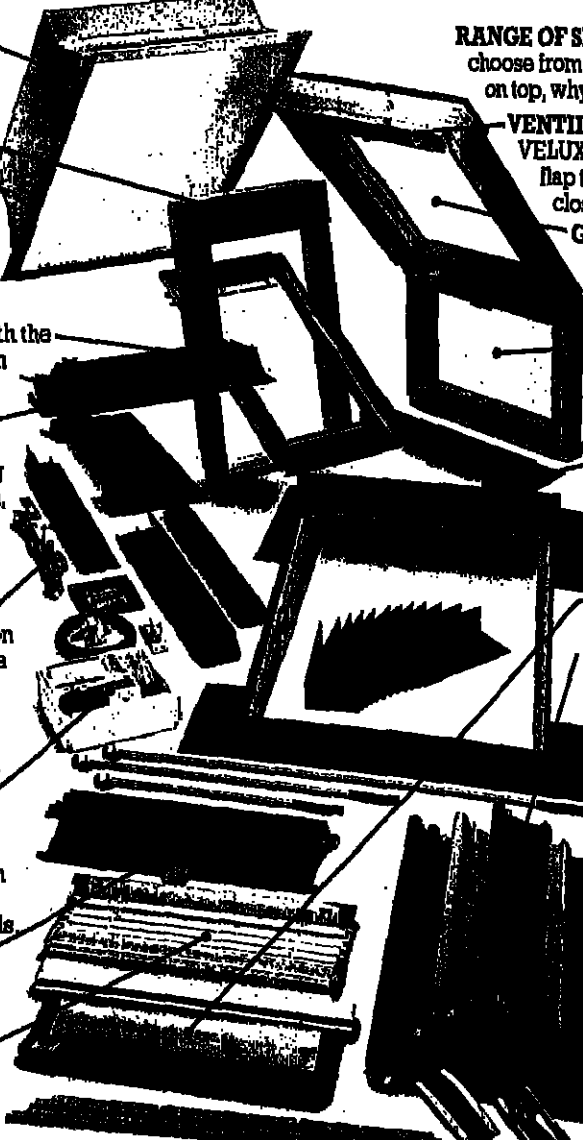
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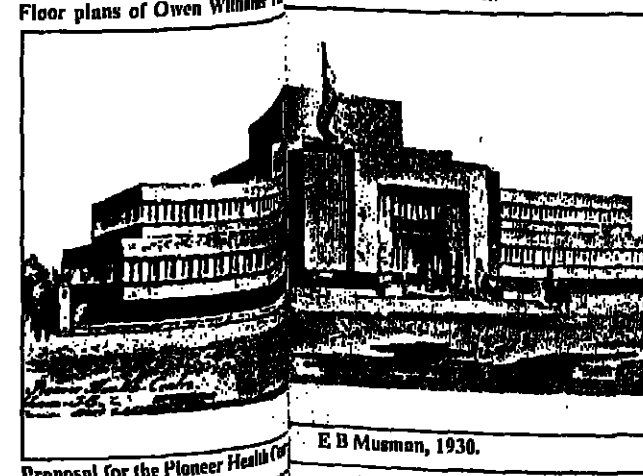
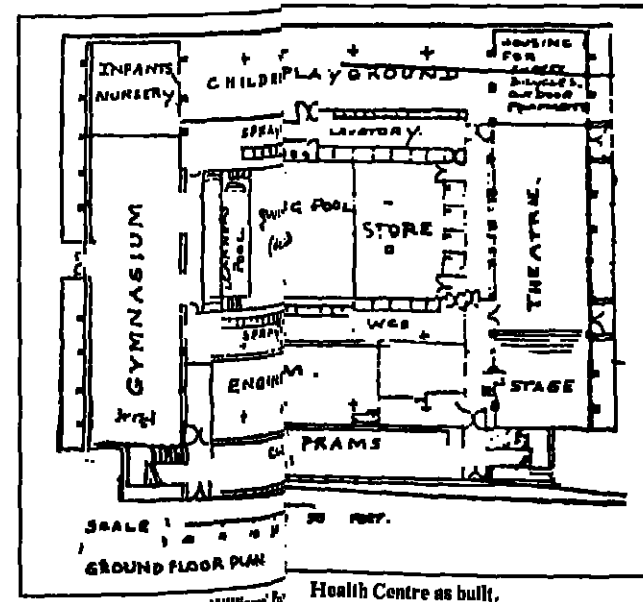
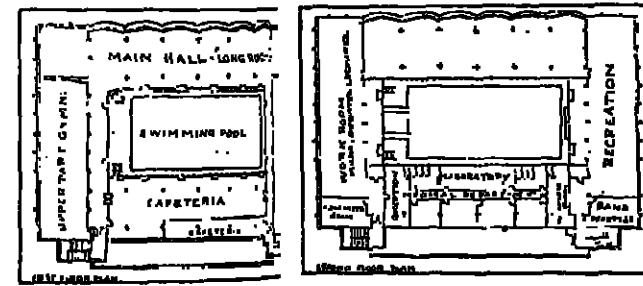
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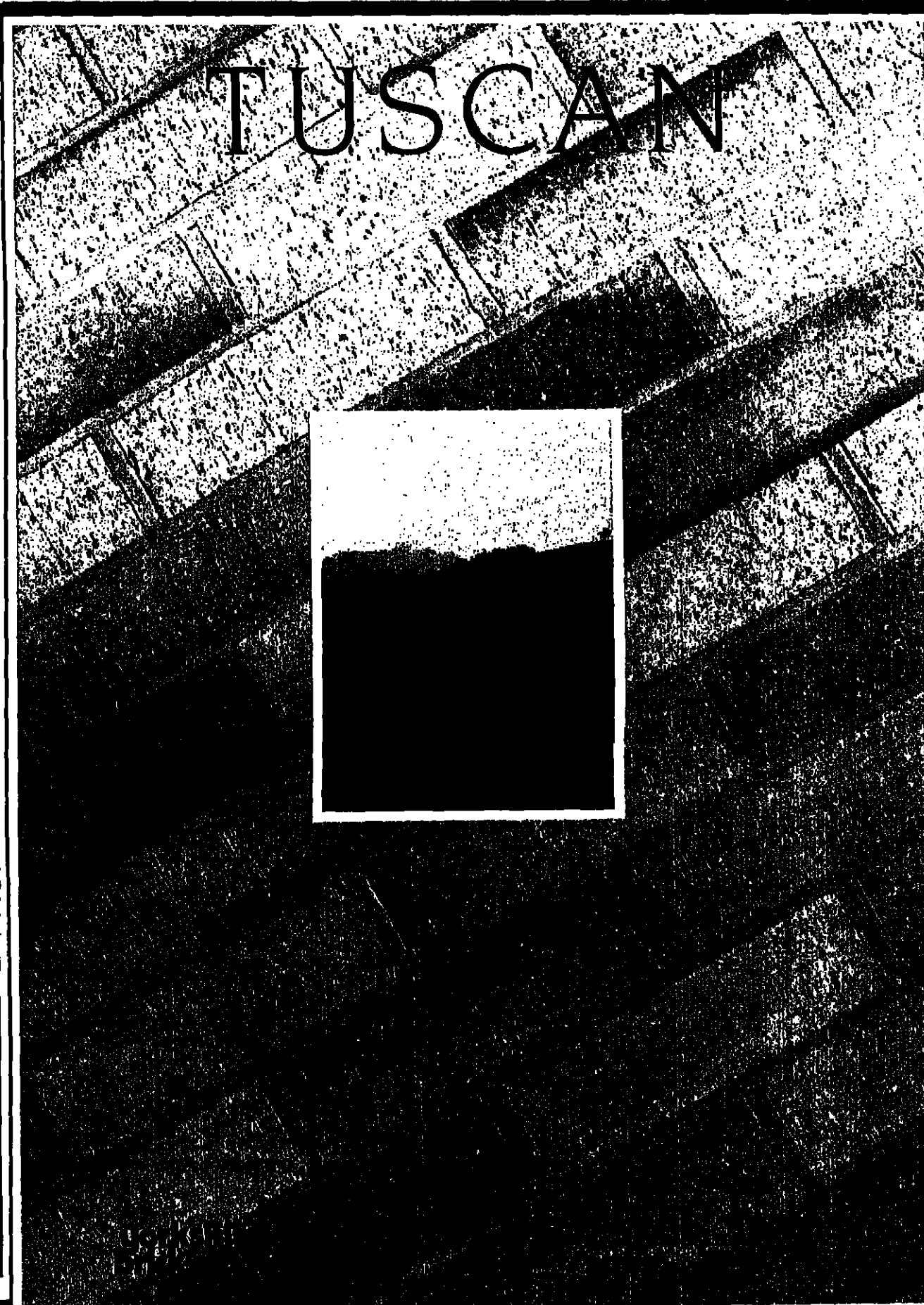
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Proposal for the Pioneer Health Centre as built.



The great BOAC hangars, one of the last great gestures to reinforced concrete. Designed by Owen Williams, 1950-54.



Designed by Owen Williams, 1950-54.



The traffic office as it is now, and (inset) how it was.

TEMPLE OF TELEVISION

A run-down Victorian traffic clerks' office in Liverpool's Albert Dock has been transformed into a hi-tech news gathering centre for Granada TV. Tony Aldous admires the blend of old and new.

THE traffic office at Liverpool's Albert Dock tucks into the north-east corner between two of Jesse Hartley's massive five-storey warehouses.

But this Classical temple-like building with Tuscan portico of cast-iron (columns, entablature, pediment and all) is not by Hartley, but by Philip Hardwick, designer of London's City Club, the late lamented Doric arch at Euston, and some of the architectural treatment of St Katharine's Dock.

The building, completed by Hardwick in 1847 and with a storey added by Hartley in the following year, had, like other buildings in the Grade I-listed Albert Dock complex, been empty and deteriorating for more than two decades. At one stage it appeared that the piles which support it might have deteriorated more than those of the five warehouse blocks, but in the event its structure proved to be relatively sound. Merseyside Development Corporation, freeholder of the whole Albert Dock group, repaired the shell

of the building and underpinned its foundations.

Building Design Partnership's Manchester office then restored and adapted the shell for their client, Granada TV. Externally, with its pink sandstone and red brick cleaned and the gilded letters "Granada TV News" gleaming below the pediment of the massive cast-iron portico, it now looks splendid. But what of the interior?

That originally consisted of a central hall, two storeys high, lit from a huge skylight or lantern in the roof, with gallery at first-floor level. This hall — a double cube 60ft x 30ft x 30ft high — was flanked by two spine walls, pierced by a series of panelled doors leading into the cellular offices on either side.

But how has BDP managed to convert such a splendid space into a hi-tech news gathering centre?

The answer is, it hasn't. The hall is beautifully restored — gallery, twin ranges of (un-needed) doors and all. Behind the 10 brown panelled and polished doors are video screens, computer keyboards and other 1980s office hardware. The hall itself can be used for functions, and even for filming, but it is essentially "as was" — except that the light which floods into it no longer includes natural light from above.

The real tv box of tricks — consoles, computers, control room, satellite receivers and the like — is hidden away in that third storey added by Hartley. A fat computer floor stuffed with cables lies above the grand hall's present ceiling; a smallish dish aerial hides discreetly behind one of the monumental chimney stacks which are upward extensions of those two spine walls.

BDP associate Ken Moth, who was the project architect, takes as much satisfaction in the ingenious technical solutions

needed to reconcile actual conservation with his use as in the actual restoration.

It required some sophisticated "structural gymnastics" to produce a structure capable of supporting the computer and the chimneys.

This included temporary demolition of top-storey walls, temporary support of chimneys on needle piles, insertion of concrete beams, concrete deck to carry computer floor.

The plant back-up for a 24-hour-a-day computerised operation was also formidable. Ventilation and power were needed to be duplicated to avoid failure. BDP ended up with four air-handling plants between the chimneys, plant basement, and one with extract actually in the portico. The news centre electrical substation is set ground in front of the entrance.

David Highton, general manager of Granada's Liverpool operation, believes he has the most advanced sophisticated news handling equipment in Europe, with news staff of 40-50 will round the clock.

But he also takes great pride in a 139-year-old building splendidly restored and helping bring back life and purpose into England's largest group of Grade I buildings — and were, less than 10 years ago, abandoned and mouldering monuments.

Client: Granada Television; technical and structural, mechanical, electrical engineers: BDP Manchester; Partner in charge: Chapman; Project architect: Moth; Project assistant: Dave Bellon; Job engineers: Greg Nolan; mechanical, electrical, surveyors: Gleds, Manchester; contractor: Fairclough Building Co; about £1.6m (excluding VAT works).



Rebuilt main hall, and (inset) before work began.

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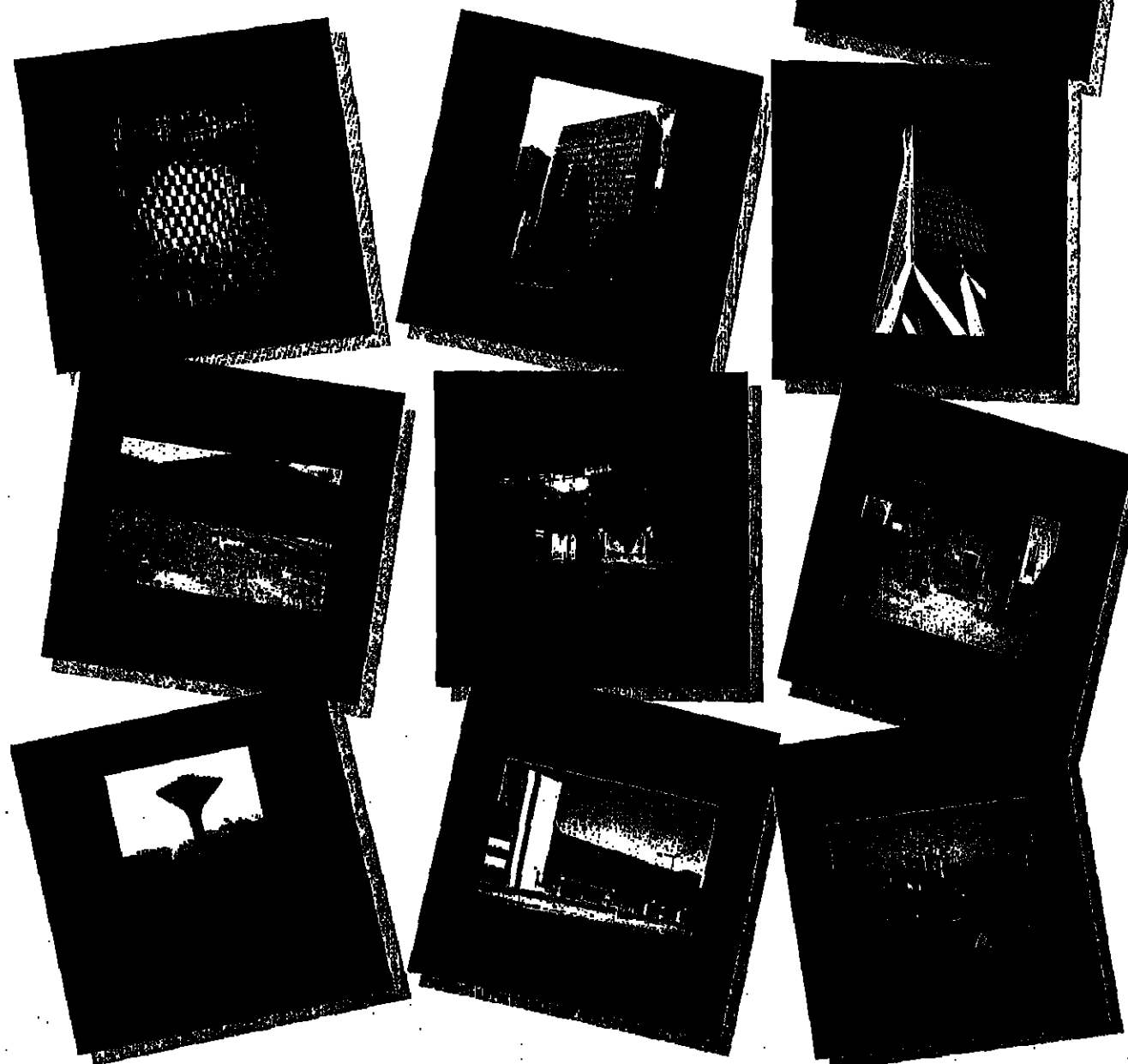
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Pract profile

HISTOR LESSON

Ian Latham looks back over the years in the life of a small practice.

RECENT decades have seen the architectural profession riding at the crest of a building boom one moment and floundering in the trough of recession the next. And while the larger practices tend to have an inherent ability to ride these fluctuations, it is the small and medium sized offices, whose viability can often rest on the profitability of a single project, which suffer most.

Only when we get down to the one-man practice is there sufficient flexibility to ride with the waves. Working from home, perhaps supplementing income with some part-time teaching, the opportunity to take on assistants when necessary, and an understanding bank manager are probably the key factors to ensure viability.

Tim Bruce-Dick recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of his small practice, which at times has seen him working with just two assistants and in more profitable periods has peaked at eight staff.

Brought up on the west coast of America, his formative influences included the Spanish-style buildings of Santa Barbara, the Beach Boys and Walt Disney (his step-father was a Disney cartoonist/animator). Returning to the comparative calm of Edinburgh University, he enrolled to study history and became absorbed by Florentine Renaissance art. Anxious to fulfil his ambition and transfer to the architecture school, he sought the advice of Robert Matthew, then head of the department. "My dear boy, Michelangelo was 42 and I was 39 before we put up our first buildings," he was told; so Bruce-Dick finished his history degree and came to London in 1963 to join the Architectural Association.

Mies and Corb were the gods, Cedric Price was on his way to becoming a demigod, at the very least, and the staple diet was of "sheds" and "complexes". "It was almost as if we were being brainwashed," confesses Bruce-Dick.

His most influential tutors included Patrick Lichfield (of Stout & Lichfield), David Bernstein (fresh from Kahn's

Project team on site at Basil Champneys' house: Dick Pearce (mechanical engineer), Carolyn Storer (architectural assistant), Steve Wickham (structural engineer), Belinda Bruce-Dick (landscape and interior designer), Tim Bruce-Dick, Paul Jeffreys (project architect), John Cowan (quantity surveyor). (Photo: Geoff Beckman).

atelier), and in 1969, his final year, Peter Cook. Contemporaries then were John Young and Marco Goldschmidt, now both partners of Richard Rogers, and Bruce-Dick's thesis project was for a steel housing scheme, "heavily influenced by Habraken". Not until a friend gave him a copy of Venturi's *Complexity and Contradiction* did Bruce-Dick feel his formal education was under way.

After a year with the London Borough of Lambeth's architects department, Bruce-Dick joined Arup Associates, "a marvellous education", where he met engineers and quantity surveyors, including Sam Price and Robert Myers, with whom he still works regularly. As a job architect for the housing and maintenance/refuse depot for the London Borough of Kensington & Chelsea in Warwick Road, Bruce-Dick came to appreciate the complexities of putting together a major project.



Model of Champneys' house extension, with swimming pool on the left and garage with flat over on the right.



Lithograph of entrance front of Basil Champneys' house in Hampstead.

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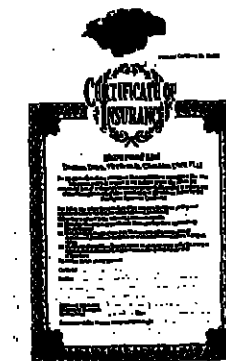
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House at Upper Heyford, self-built by the client.

After 18 months, the Bruce-Dick family, including two-year-old daughter, embarked on a year-long trip that was to take them overland to India. On their return, Tim Bruce-Dick Associates was established.

Throughout the past decade, Bruce-Dick's work has been in both the public and private sector, though clients in the former category have steadily seen their funds diminishing. In the mid-70s the London Borough of Camden was undertaking a programme of so-called "interim rehabilitation", alternatively known as the "lash-up programme" (a sort of fledgling "community architecture"); £5,000 was available to make each home habitable for a period of five years, and Bruce-Dick was asked to convert some 20 houses. Inevitably, most of the money went on updating kitchens and bathrooms.

While working at Arups, Bruce-Dick had prepared drawings for a house at Maidens-

grove in the Chilterns on a 2½ acre site with a view towards the Thames Valley. Nothing actually happened until he returned from India, when the site was sold to a pilot. Through the RIBA clients' advisory service, the new owner had approached an old established Reading practice, which twice came up with schemes that proved unacceptable to South Oxfordshire District Council. The pilot went along to see the planning officer, and Bruce-Dick's old drawings were unearthed; a quick phone call was made and a commission resulted.

The Maidensgrove house was built for £36,000 and was completed in 1976; subsequent publication, first in the *Architects Journal*, then in a special supplement in the *Oxford Mail* (which, most significantly, included the office address), led to other commissions.

The piece in the *Oxford Mail* continued page 30



Conservatory extension to house in St Johns Wood.



Rear view showing landscaped garden and conservatory extension to house in St Johns Wood.

TEI COMV

New from Telefusion



Entry by Peter Colomb, Judith Tranter and Tim Bruce-Dick, river elevation; Inigo Jones meets Giulio Romano and Sansovino.

Lesson

are picked out in dark medium stain, which ends the colour of the brickwork. Anxious to avoid the associative effects of a standard municipal insignia, Bruce-Dick asked a woodcarver friend, Howard Raybould, to produce the nameplate for the block.

As local authorities have had to cut funding for housing rehabilitation programmes, Bruce-Dick has come to rely on private clients for commissions. These have varied in type and scale from a discreet 2.6m side addition to a house in Regents Park Road, comprising a bedroom, bathroom and kitchen, to the restoration and extension of a fine Victorian house in Hampstead.

Set against two other architects for the latter job, the practice undertook some detective work. They had noticed a carved brick plaque on the side of the building with the inscription "BC 1881". Paul Jeffreys, then assistant in the office, searched through the RIBA library and came across a reference and picture of the house — built by the eminent architect Basil Champneys for himself.

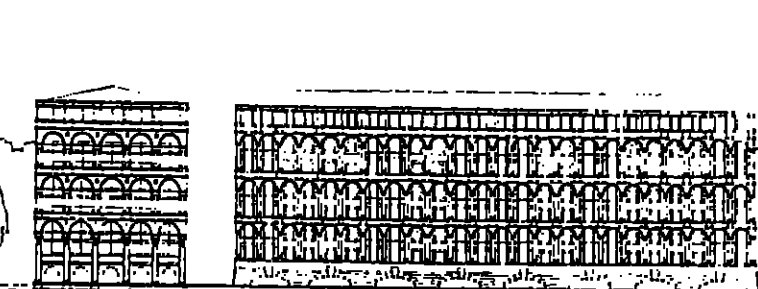
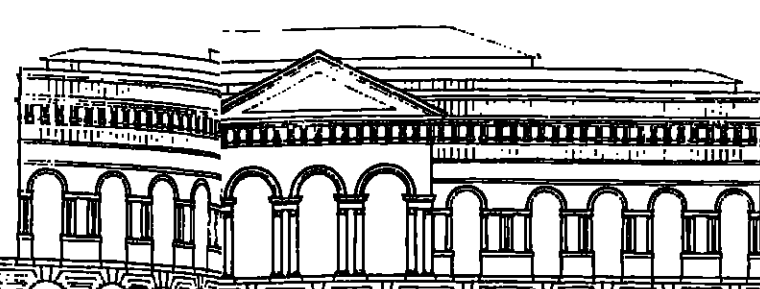
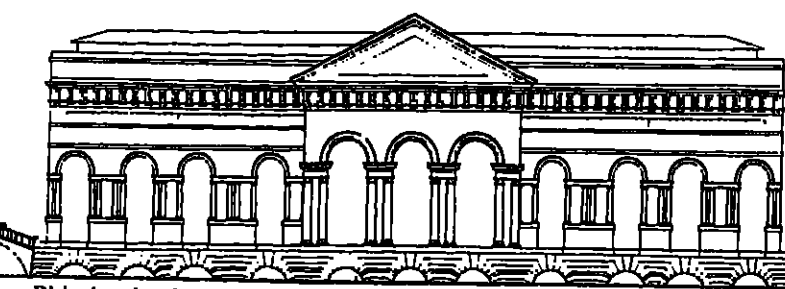
A speculative scheme was then produced for the extension. It included a swimming pool, complete with a special slide from an upstairs balcony straight into the pool — a novel feature that appealed to the client, who subsequently commissioned the practice. The scheme has gone through several stages, not least because of the sensitive nature of the house and its setting, but the fact that the main building would be

carefully restored from its shabby subdivided state back to a single dwelling meant that the extensions were accepted. Some brickwork, sills and timber window frames have been renewed — and the plaque has even been moved, with the agreement of the historic buildings officer, to the opposite side of the house in a more prominent position, matching that indicated in the original perspective drawing.

But the most substantial changes, approaching completion, have entailed the construction of an extension across the back of the house that incorporates a new garage with flat above, a swimming pool with associated changing facilities, and a staircase with bathrooms upstairs — and the balcony which overlooks the pool. Despite its inevitable size, this extension fits in comfortably with the house, its massing and materials responding sympathetically to the original, yet in a relaxed manner that has allowed for a distinguished and special volume over the pool. There has evidently been a disproportionate investment of time in "getting it right", to which the sensitive result bears witness.

The practice's conservationist skills were also put into effect in the restoration and reinstatement into one dwelling of five flats of a fine stucco-fronted house in Kensington, parts of which were in an appalling condition and virtually uninhabitable. All the rooms were painstakingly restored and the staircase repaired with cast aluminium balustrading following the original pattern. The

Practice profile

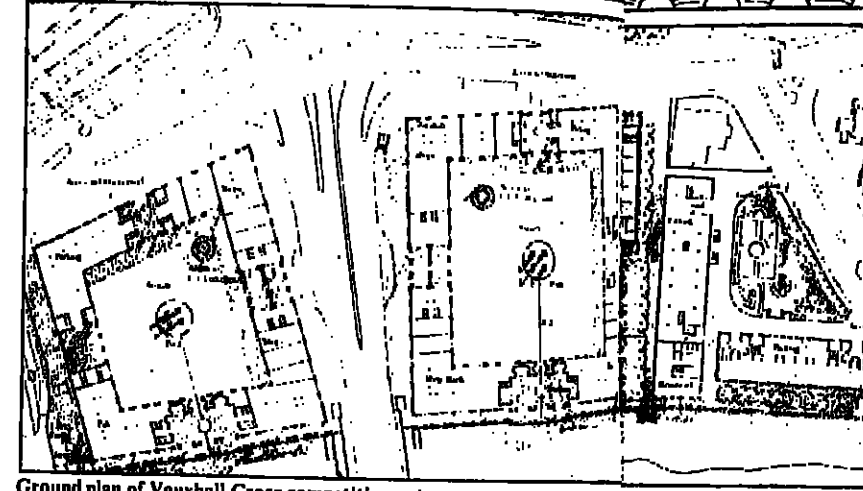


rear was tidied up and a new stair housing was added to an upper terrace in the form of a pavilion — or miniature Palladian villa — built entirely from off-the-peg Magnet doors.

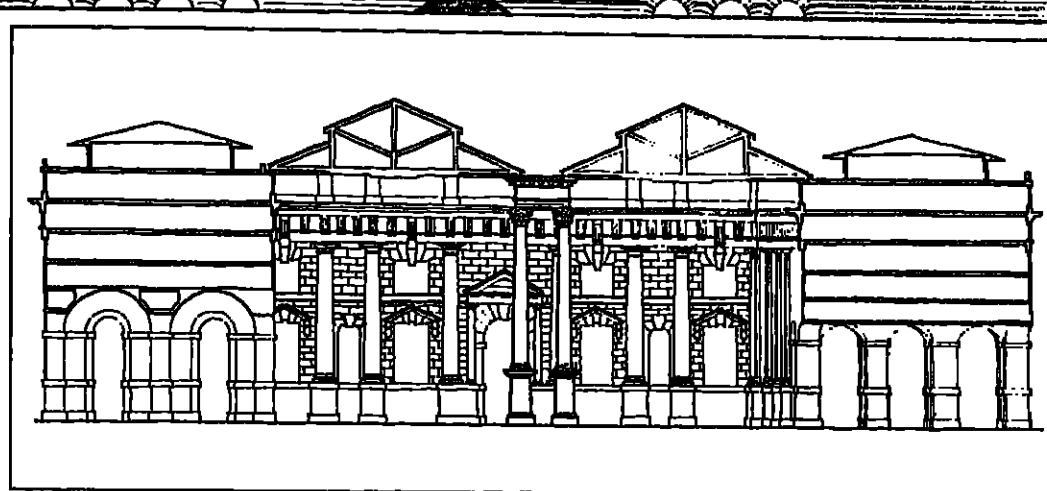
Rather more scope was promised by Bruce-Dick's commission to extend a house in St John's Wood. A spectacular glazed conservatory plays out into a new sunken garden terrace, opening up the rear part of the house to the western sun and forming a spacious family room that responds directly to the busy, yet informal, family lifestyle.

The extension, kept to one storey in accordance with the

requirements of the Eyrre Estate, freehold owner of the house, is planned to form a large kitchen and dining room and conservatory that can be either divided off from one another or opened out into a multi-purpose space. Moreover, a new spiral staircase provides direct access to the formal living room above and glazed conservatory plays out back to open the conservatory to the garden terrace enclosed by steps and four levels of cascading pools in a symmetrical arrangement. The brick bay of the living room is now supported by the cranked beams that define the form of the conservatory in an elegant and



Ground plan of Vauxhall Cross competition entry.



Sectional elevation through typical block, Vauxhall Cross competition. Sketch drawing by Peter Colomb.

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Edwardian fire station in Highgate converted into flats for Haringey — the dormer on the left is new, 1981.

creative structural solution.

While Tim Bruce-Dick regards it as essential not to have preconceptions in terms of an architectural approach, some degree of continuity has been lent by his part-time teaching at Oxford Polytechnic, and it is from the school that most of his assistants have come. Each project is approached afresh, though the accumulative experience of working with different clients, contractors, sites and briefs informs the way the next scheme is handled.

Underlying all the work is a fascination for history — not so

much in an academic sense as in its understanding and interpretation. Bruce-Dick is a passionate believer in exploring myths; history teaches that buildings are basically "very straightforward", they are simply the technology of the time responding to the cultural influences of the time. The practice's approach is convincing in that it offers the opportunities for buildings to be referential without resorting to facsimile or pastiche.

It's a way of working that will be intriguing to test on larger scale projects.



View of staircase hall in restored Kensington house.



Detail of staircase in restored Kensington house; new cast aluminium balustrades match the original pattern.

Urbanism

KANSAS CANVAS

Will Alsop presents his painted prescriptions for attracting people back to the centre of Kansas City. (Photos Geoff Beeckman.)



Shops, single person apartments, carpark and wall — in the street.

Mobile wall to make streets into programmable rooms.



Street table served by kitchens.

City Bath: rooms full of water.

AS the Chevrolet cruises slowly into Main Street you are aware of being alone. The middle of the city can give you a severe bout of unwelcome privacy. The city contains an odd mix of dilapidated buildings, cheap stores, rehabilitated historical structures and new mirrored towers. The latter rise above the downtown plain waiting for tenants.

These anonymous edifices await the northward drift from the sun belt which is just beginning to produce a new air of confidence in many of the mid-western cities. The lovers of the sun and low-cost energy are returning to recolonise the cloudy north, repeating the blacks earlier in this century. These new migrants will find scenes of downtown desolation to welcome them.

In Kansas City, Missouri, the blacks had their jazz bars where Charlie Parker and Sarah Vaughan's ghosts still lurk at Miltons, but these ghosts are not enough to capture the new members of the northern drift and make it a terminus.

For some cities it is too late: Muncie, Indiana, has consis-

tently tried to hire people back to the middle with financial incentives and token landscape/pedestrian schemes. Even so, the citizens prefer to drive down the strip on the north-west of town and parade and pose in Muncie Mall, particularly on a Friday night. The city is without a heart.

For these cities the only course of action is to empty downtown and concentrate on enhancing the strip. This results in a shift of emphasis on a new city centre, which to me seems wholly appropriate for a nation which is usefully mobile.

Kansas City has not gone that far. The remains of downtown have a quality, topography and presence that suggest it is still worthwhile repossessing it. The conventional response to the rehabilitation of inner city areas is a five-point plan, as follows:

Improve and increase parking facilities

It is true that any consideration of an American city must liberally accommodate cars. Unfortunately it is this fact that has contributed to the downtown decline. Land prices tend to be very low, which allows the owners of buildings and developers to purchase adjacent plots, clear them and provide surface parking.

The multiple effect of this strategy is to lower the apparent density of the city, which makes a true urban scale, in spite of the large buildings, impossible.

Increase the number of inner-city residents

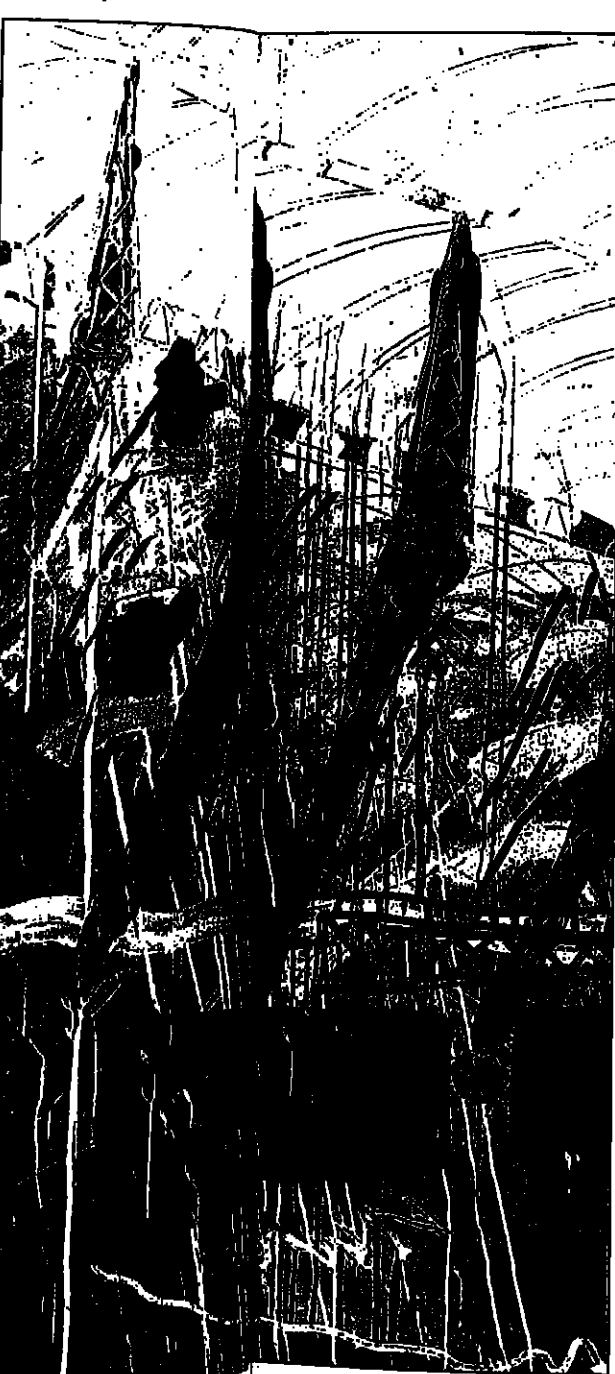
The popular solution to this problem is to attempt to build more housing. It is true that the American city, with its low land prices, can actually achieve the physical entity at realistic prices or rentals. The problems lie in persuading people to live in them because the downtown is perceived as unsafe. It is unsafe because of its emptiness. The number of eyes on the street has been reduced to a level where the city is blind to its own clandestine activities.

In Kansas City they have made an effort to produce downtown accommodation. Unfortunately, much of it is achieved through the rehabilitation of existing detached houses and the resultant scale is more akin to suburbia as opposed to the density required to cure the city's myopia.

Housing also requires other services close at hand to support living: schools, laundries and food bars. Kansas City has designated an area for housing.



Kansas City Plan.



Street cover supported by car parks thereby committing the mistake of planners — the segregation of functions.

Staggered working hours
This concept is obviously intended to maintain a higher number of people on the street at traditionally quiet times of the day. If staggered working hours are replaced by the flexi-hours, it promotes a more organic vision of downtown. It is the rigidity of the use of time in cities. Ultimately it results in an expected diurnal use which people respond to. Once the city is empty there is nothing to command a response.



City laundry facilities to animate other functions downtown. Roof for street high-level space for shade and shelter.

inhabit for the sake of a salary. This could be avoided, in part, if single occupancy of a single building were prevented, then the building itself can be perceived as a city resource, suitable for plunder, that can respond to changing patterns of use within the inner city.

Increase numbers of eating and culture facilities

The majority of central locations to eat are certainly typified by the phrase "eat to live". They are aimed at the needs of the commuters who dream of their own suburban kitchen that will prepare supper later in the day. The vast majority of American restaurants in the mid-west are designed to get rid of you as quickly as possible. It is very difficult to find a place where you can linger and fill pleasantly that time between the end of a working day and the beginnings of a dose of culture.

The downtown should be like a house. The many different rooms should be used for different types of entertainment; the kitchen should prepare food and allow it to be distributed to the whole house. At present the idea of culture is to lock it away in isolated rooms — often unrelated to the kitchen and, certainly, the front door.

Make it beautiful

"Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder"... but who beholds it? Only those that go to see it. These strategies on their own do not constitute a guarantee that the city will flourish. They do, however, pose the question of what they mean. Normally the architect is taught to keep an open mind and only engage it when confronted with a new situation or a cheque. This "good" practice assumes an air of research and as a result proposals and thoughts take on a new authority. Architecture is considered as a quasi-science that could be as good for you, if not better, than medicine.

When notions of urban design and planning are broached, the need for rules appears to become mandatory to the architect and planner. It seems that the larger the scale of the object, the more rules society requires to be observed. The result of this is that buildings cannot be designed with the freedom of paintings, or parts of towns and cities thought of in terms of a building.

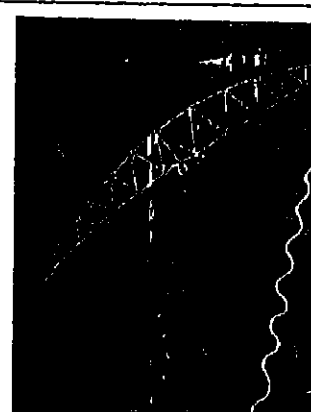
Perhaps both building and town would benefit from the idea of a personality imposed upon them. Imposition is usually the result of a com-



Bridge to West Bottoms.



Object against parking wall.



Study for end of carpark wall.



Public lavatory with structural tile.

mittee. If rules exist to be broken, then they also exist to be exaggerated. Could it be that the very existence of the rules, already laid out as the five-point plan (the sixth beautiful point is my addition) for looking at depressed downtowns could be the generator for exercising preconceptions?

I decided to explore Kansas City and its needs before ever visiting it. The paintings that illustrate this article were all done immediately before my visit. They record my ideas for a place that has lost its reason to be visited.

The paintings outline courses of action that could be taken to re-establish a street life. This was my attempt to find a way of evolving a city plan that related to the act of painting.

In visiting Kansas City I found not one of the paintings irrelevant. I also found people willing to talk about the content of a painting containing possibilities for action as opposed to the usual reception that a tightly drawn plan evokes in the form of sincere doubt. The paintings promote a participation in the observation and idea, not a reaction to what appears to be bland research.



Objects for street with lights.



Fish restaurant

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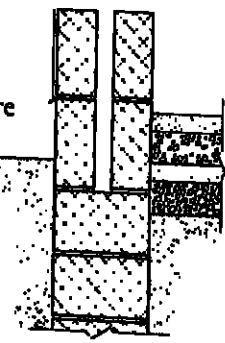
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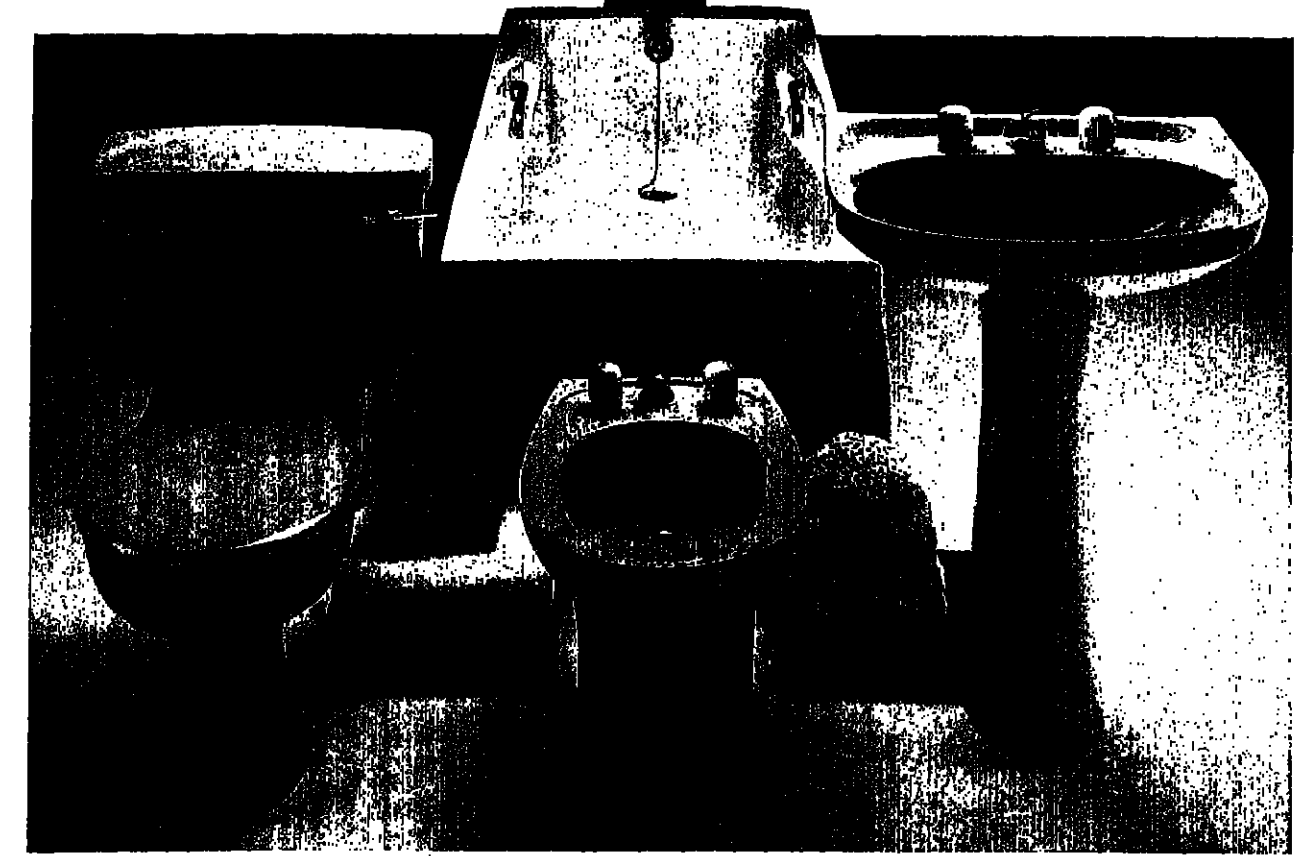
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Books

Garters
wine
and art

By Robert Harbison

The Brothers Adam: The Men and the Style by Joseph and Anne Rykwert (Collins £15).

THIS is a frustrating book. When it is good it is exceptionally provoking and manages to draw together and illuminate disparate phenomena which have been inert, nerveless and without meaning. It also contains lapses, many minor, but all potential booby-traps for the unwary.

First its virtues. I have never read anything better on the transmutation of decorative motifs than discussions here of ceiling designs at Kedleston, Derby House, and Osterley. As everyone knows, decorative motifs were raised by the Adams to new importance: they devised

an architectural style which is really a form of evading or covering, an elegant scribbling on a transubstantiated surface, the English equivalent of the more violent, Continental rococo.

The Rykwerts remain ambivalent about this. Having committed so much time and thought to the Adams they are reluctant to see the work as two-dimensional ornamentation and no more, and so make unconvincing claims for "new ways of occupying space". Of course decor does infiltrate the spaces it provides the edges of, but only the rashest observer would single the Adams out as great plastic inventors.

Their "architecture" is highly pictorial, not in large representational motifs, but in drawing one's eye to minute inspection of linear pattern, in prompting delicacies of movement from the eye to match the nervous play of line in the design.

The nearest thing to a convincing case for more than decorative achievement are the Rykwerts' persuasive descriptions of sequences of rooms in large London houses as well as palatial efforts in the country. But these are like a series of scene changes, a kind of kaleidoscopic variety with little relation



James Adam's design for Hangingshaw, Selkirkshire, 1768.

between the separate elements. They are not articulated, but strung like beads or trinkets, and so one is almost justified in calling the brothers scenic designers, not architects.

Joseph and Anne Rykwert's book is successful at showing the inter-connectedness of various projects, and one is now convinced that collecting antiques, designing rooms and replanning cities are part of a continuum, activities which all

belong under the rubric of civilising or ameliorating, a function one will regard as high or trivial depending on one's own vantage. Their most important claim runs somewhat counter to this: that the Adams, by exercising tight control over their craftsmen, give a crucial push to the long mechanisation of production.

Humanly, the most interesting part of the book is the account of Robert's and then

James' Grand Tour. The Rykwerts manage to make this oft-trampled ground more fertile than usual, and to fill one with a melancholy sense. It was the best time of Robert Adam's life, when he was returning the disciplines he had already studied, from Clerisseau and Piranesi and other teachers in the shifting, polyglot environment of Rome in the 1750s.

It is a tribute to the Rykwerts' less serious and productive tour which follows is not an anticlimax, but a vigorously different encounter with foreign culture and new kinds of pretension. Like the Reynolds exhibition at the Royal Academy, these sections of the book give one the sense of 18th century culture as a vast drawing room in which everyone has a chance of meeting everyone else, in which Percy dedicates his *Reliques of old English poetry* to someone the Adams design for, and Horace Walpole knows almost everybody.

It seems the last moment in European history when a group of pampered Englishmen could sit around a table (in Reynolds' portrait of the Dilettanti) admiring Greek vases, ladies' garters, and the wine which is making them drunk indiscriminately, and could want to be seen doing it. It is a messier and less compartmentalised view of culture than most which have reigned since.

So for a view of a whole career in a deeper than usual sense, this book can be very good indeed. It is also good on strange byways of history, like a continuum running from 17th century vernacular Gothic to the earliest bits of learned or revived Gothic.

But it is strangely flawed — at times deeply considered, at others carelessly flung together. The proportions of the book, for instance, strain credulity. Early sections are leisurely — a long and not especially interesting portion given to the work of the Adams' father, even to a brief history of Scottish building in general. At some point a dizzy acceleration begins, and the last half of the career is covered at many times the earlier speed. Later projects are often listed, not described. The castle style, one of the most intriguing types of production, is whizzed through, the general theory being that it is rugged and "natural", but thoroughly antique, its models Diocletian's palace at Spalato, and Hadrian's Wall (the castles' near-neighbour) and that it has no Gothic flavour at all, an energetic reassessment few will entirely accept.

Text and pictures are in uneasy relation throughout; at the end the illustrated and undiscussed, and mentioned-but-unpictured occur more and more. First it should be said that the illustrations are fascinating and intelligently chosen, including a profusion of the gorgeous drawings, especially sections, now in the Soane museum. It is one of the few architectural

books which has almost as many plans as one would like. But so many projects are so enticingly described and illustrated — Robert's early Gothic studies, sections of Lough a sea-tower somewhere in the land, a variety of domes and other temporary structures, a late prison and coffeehouse, an antique transparent illumination for the King's birthday.

The book's organisation sometimes ramschackle, as if prose under different times hadn't been rigorously segregated. The treatment of Lough House in London, stand as exemplar. It is full, with confusing digressions, other projects for the same related patrons. Because a person had at different times two titles, he and the house, referred to by two names, the reader must work out, actually the same man, building. This problem, through the book, captions, text often disagree about names of buildings and especially rooms. Some of these variances are slight: the House vs Registry II, Entrance Hall vs Grand II, but they are never a help.

More serious than this: confused way alterations: plans are referred to, but some puzzling to decipher: the crossblock in Edinburgh University wasn't later moved, but never built in the first place. The reader is feeling the book has almost him into error. Which is a pity in a work that at other times synthesises so intelligently and speculates so fruitfully.

Hope for
flat roof
solutions

By Sylvester Bone

Flat roofs criteria and methods of assessment, repair and replacement by the DES Architects and Building Group. *Flat roof manual*, prepared by Bickerdike Allen Partners with the Oxford Regional Health Authority architect and published by the NHS Continuing Education Unit.

TWO recent publications will join Part three of the PSA's *Flat Roofs Technical Guide* to give us compatible and intelligent sources of advice on maintaining flat roofs. The new publications are based on the maintenance of schools and hospitals. They hold out the hope that major problems with flat roofs are now behind us.

Flat roofs criteria and methods of assessment, repair and replacement from the DES Architects and Building Group is based on schools maintenance programmes. It is as concerned to avoid unnecessary expenditure as it is to keep the roof out. We are told that use of the new increased weight and modified coatings to polyester felt is not worth the extra cost in the situations and conditions covered by the study.

With at some length, partly to demonstrate that it is often not worth adding to the insulation when a flat roof is repaired. It should be remembered, however, that schools are heated intermittently and often not at all in holidays.

The DES design note series (this is No 46) has a reputation for clarity. Some (such as No 18 on disabled access) have become widely accepted as authoritative documents. This publication deserves the same recognition. It provides a methodical approach to the analysis of flat roof problems and gives examples of how the approach can be applied to "troublesome specifications". A last chapter on "areas for further research" suggests that we need to be better informed about:

- The effectiveness of flat roof defect detection methods — using the various measuring devices now available to locate dampness in the construction without opening up.
- The comparative performance of whole roofingsystems. Testing and a standard presentation of performance should be developed. The need is underlined by the disappointing experience with some early Agrément certificated plastic roof insulations and single layer membranes.
- Whether cushioning sheets, which allow roofing without removing the chippings, are as effective as the makers claim.

The long-term effectiveness of sprayed insulation is another point that could well have been added to the list.

The second publication, a *Flat roof manual*, is prepared by Bickerdike Allen Partners with the Oxford Regional Health Authority architect and published by the NHS Continuing Education Unit in York. It is in complete contrast to the carefully measured advice from DES.

The Health Authority and a busy and knowledgeable consultant appear to have bundled together parts of the documentation that they have used in the field, hoping that others would find it useful. In the main they have made the right decision.

There should be more of this sort of information available to improve the general competence of consultants. It is the sort of publication that RIBA Services should get involved with. In every office there are certain bits of paper that get picked up and used again each time a particular problem comes up. They may need to be adapted to suit the new job, but even if they do, they provide a starting point and a route back to the experience gained on the previous job.

The *Flat roof manual* contains checklists and sample surveys which could save a good deal of time — as well as bringing out points that might otherwise be forgotten. It sets out sequences of decisions and the now conventional solutions of:

- Partially bonded or fully bonded first layers depending on the substrate.
- Two or three layers of polyester felt, depending whether partially or fully bonded.
- Lightly bonded chippings (with full bonding at outlets and verges).

After the clarity of the DES publication, the first impression of the *Flat roof manual* is one of middle. Pages and paragraphs are not properly numbered. There are too many flow diagrams asking what appear to be obvious questions such as: "Do you have resources to do this design work?" However, when the publication is seen as a compilation of work sheets still warm from the office, its value becomes apparent and with familiarity the little nuggets of useful information become easier to find, especially as there is a good index and bibliography.

There is a rumour that rain penetration through external walls is now taking over from rain penetration through flat roofs as the building industry's favourite defect. If this is so, it must be because many of our worst flat roofs have already been dealt with and the new specifications now being used can, in the words of the DES, "give satisfactory performance for perhaps double the 20-25 year life previously considered to be the maximum for felted covering".

Shifting
history's
borders

By Ian Latham

Encyclopaedia of 20th Century Architecture (Thames & Hudson, £12.50).

THE low price of Thames & Hudson's familiar black-spined "World of Art Library" series has meant its titles have been accessible to recent generations of architecture students.

Standard issue was the excellent *Encyclopaedia of Modern Architecture* edited by Gerd Hatje and Wolfgang Peint and published in German and English in 1963. Packed with biographical and explanatory information by some 30 writers — together with 450 illustrations — the handbook offered the first and best introduction to the complex maze of 20th century architecture. Though reprinted several times, 23 years have passed since the encyclopaedia's appearance — drastic updating and reassessment is clearly overdue. The latest Thames & Hudson *Encyclopaedia of 20th Century Architecture* has duly appeared.

Over the past 23 years a plethora of books attempting to present an understanding of modern architecture have appeared as its doctrines have come under examination. Not least of these was Kenneth Frampton's *Modern Architecture: A Critical History*, also in the "World of Art" series. This excellent volume is now complemented by the new encyclopaedia.

While the overall format and length establishes the connection with its predecessor, the new book, now edited by Vittorio Magnago Lampugnani (and first published three years ago in Germany by Gerd Hatje) presents some major differences.

First the title has changed from *Modern Architecture* to *20th Century Architecture*, more because "Modern" has come to represent a particular, rather than inclusive, set of values. The range of entries remains as catholic but there are significant omissions, additions and reassessments.

Take the "A" listings. First, there are now 27 entries, rather than 16, covering some 23 pages, against 15. The total number of pages, incidentally, has increased more than proportionately.

We have gained most entries simply in the process of updating: Aida, Aillaud, Alexander, Alvares, Andrews, Archigram, Architect, Arup, Atelier 5, Aymonino, and Azuma — their selection indicates something about the inclinations of the editor, but such a discussion would require lengthier study. (Post-modernism, incidentally, does rate a tentative entry but it doesn't get as much space as Lampugnani's new entry on "Rational architecture" and "Rationalism".) We have also gained some entries as a result of what might be called a reassessment of

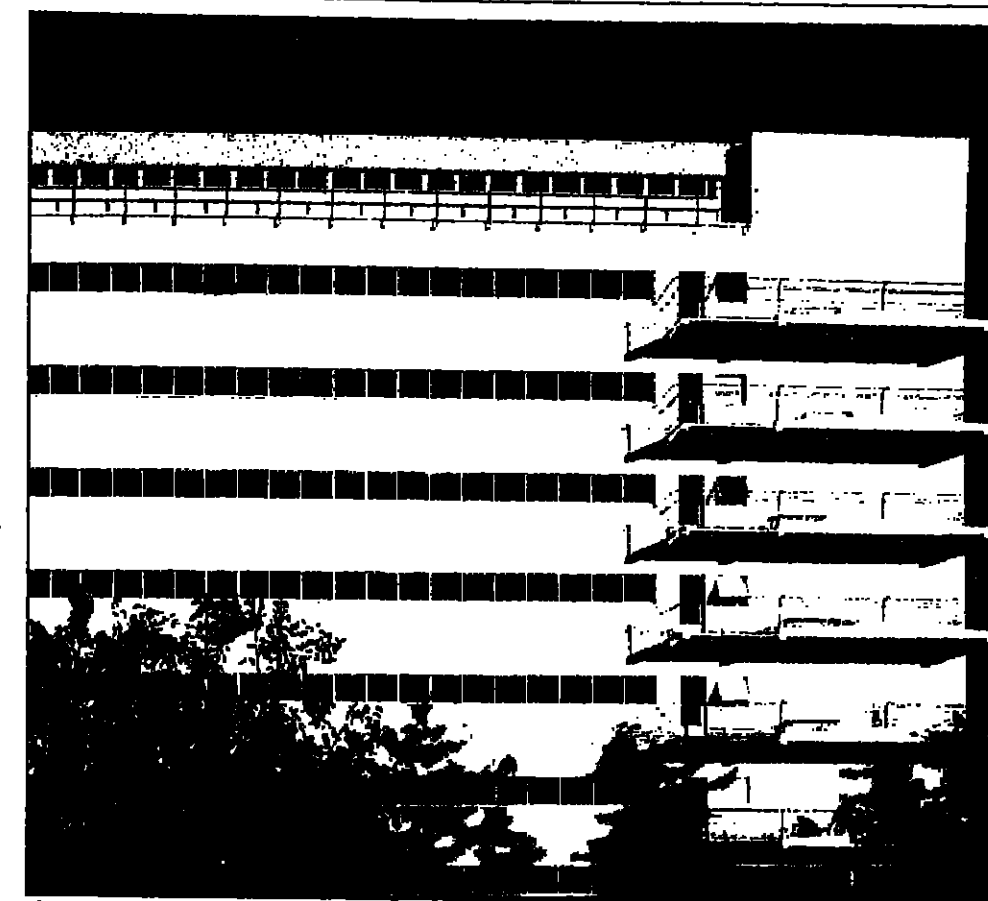
historical parameters: the Arbeitsrat für Kunst, Art Deco and Aschbee are now included.

We have lost David R. R. Abernethy, architect of the excellent TUC building (1953-56), one of London's most underrated buildings, and Alessandri Antonelli, who died in Turin in 1888, and so has been excluded in the title switch from "Modern" to "20th century".

We are left with 13 common entries, from Aalto to Austria, all of which have been revised — usefully these now conclude with short bibliographies. Aalto's four pages, still written by Leonardo Mosso, have more words and are updated to acknowledge some recent scholarship (though not, intriguingly, Demetri Porphyrios' *Sources of Modern Eclecticism*). There are still seven illustrations, identical in subject but for the substitution of the interior of the Inaara church by the interior of Riola di Vergeto (completed in 1978). The quality of these pictures, and the paper on which they are printed, has been greatly improved.

Sadly, the remaining difference lies in the price. While £12.50 must be good value, students are advised to await the inevitable paperback edition of this indispensable little book.

Books



Alvar Aalto: Regional sanatorium, Paimio, 1930-33. Competition, 1928-29.

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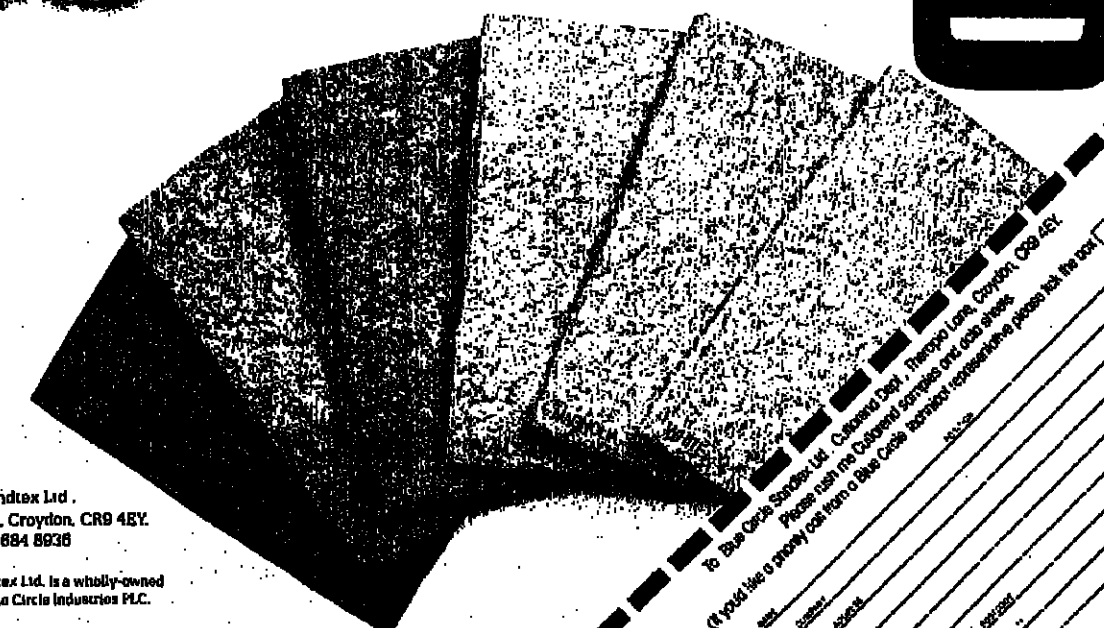
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Compiled by Harold Hudson

Hay fever beaten by accident

WHEN Sterling Industrial introduced its air purifying and odour counteracting unit, Airmaster, last year, it was never thought that it could hold the secret which would bring relief for thousands of hay fever sufferers.

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According to the bureau, the unit could offer a "considerable benefit to hay fever sufferers and would appear to have a valuable role to play in the armoury of preventive measures available to hay fever sufferers both at home and in the office".

During tests the Sterling Airmaster was shown to remove 98 per cent of mixed pollens and achieved a 99 per cent rating when British Standard 2831 dust

particles were used. Bridging the gap between domestic air purifiers with restrictive air flow and expensive electro-static or ionising units, Sterling Airmaster provides an effective localised air-conditioning system. It can also be used with a special long-life gel which imparts a subtle methol fragrance to the air to give decongestant relief to those already suffering from hay fever.

As we approach the annual season of discomfort for those suffering from this particular allergy, we can expect to see a rise in demand for Sterling Industrial's device, which can be in a mobile or fixed form and operates from a normal 240v electrical supply.

Harold Hudson

Enter 100 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

If you would like more information on the products on these pages, fill in and return the pre-paid enquiry card.

Bar system

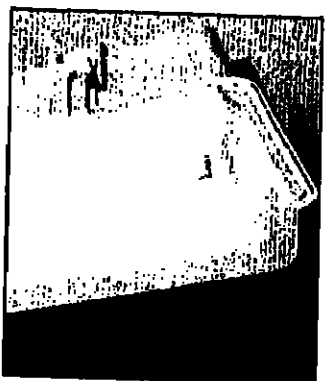


SUPPLIED in 1.5-metre modules, the Barmaid Bar system, recently introduced by the Barshop Group of Companies, can be quickly assembled, together with continuous bar tops and service counters, to create a fully fitted bar in the twinkling of an eye. Said to cost up to 25 per cent less than traditional purpose-built bars, these units, which come in various styles — traditional or contemporary — can be ready for service in as little as one day.

Enter 101 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Luminaires

WHERE conditions are hostile and dust, moisture and corrosion are problems, the new Philips Lighting PLE 250K Kombi Pak provides a trouble-free solution. This energy-saving, high-frequency fluorescent luminaire has a Degree of Protection of IP55 and is expected to find particular relevance in loading bay areas, underpasses and garages. It can be used indoors or out, and is likely to be used in the food-processing business.



Enter 102 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Sports luminaire



KNOWN as the SHF 250K Kombi Pak, this new energy-saving, high-frequency luminaire from Philips Lighting has been developed for use in leisure centres and sports complexes. It significantly improves visibility in fast-moving ball games, such as squash, tennis and basketball. This is achieved by the elimination of mains flicker by means of a solid-state rectifier/power oscillator, which replaces the conventional ballast and starter.

Enter 103 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Carpet tiles

PROVIDING outstanding wearing qualities and considerable design appeal, Interface Flooring Systems' Debron Velvet is a fusion-bonded carpet tile with a Chasbac backing structure made up of a vinyl/glass fibre material. Qualities imparted by this backing include good dimensional stability, no buckling or curling and the ability to lay without gluing down. Tiles are made from 100 per cent ICI Timbrelle S nylon with excellent soil hiding and anti-static properties.

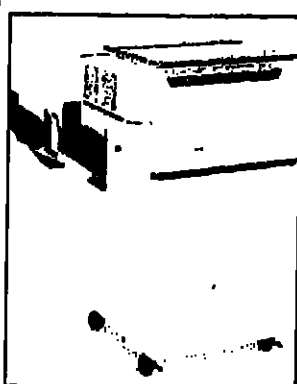
Enter 104 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Torch-on roofs

SUITABLE for flat, sloping or curved surfaces, Aquagum is a new torch-on polyester based, modified bitumen roof covering. Introduced by BP Roof Cover. This material is exclusively installed by the company operatives and carries a 10-year guarantee. It is supplied in 1m x 10m rolls, has high elasticity, low-temperature flexibility and resistance to thermal shock. The introduction of this material enlarges BP Roof Cover's range of roofings, including Aquastar polyester felts and Aquathene single layer membranes.

Enter 105 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Copier



SELEX has introduced a new auto-exposure zoom reduction and enlargement copier — the Model 60AZ — which will produce 15 copies per minute. It zooms from 65 per cent reduction to 142 per cent enlargement and can be used instantly in full-size mode or three preset ratios. Its auto-exposure takes the guesswork out of copying difficult originals. The 60AZ comes with three paper cassettes for A4, A4R and A3 paper sizes and is suitable for those requiring up to 10,000 copies per month.

Enter 106 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Hand driers

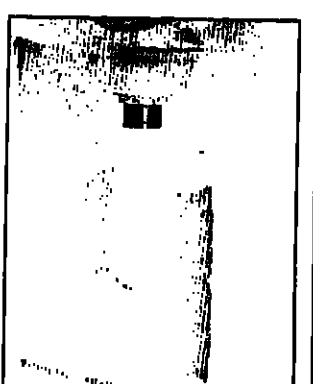


AUTO-DRI and Aqua-Dri are new hand driers launched by DSI Santon. These Electricity Council approved units deliver a stream of warm, dry, clean air and are said to be the less costly and less messy than providing towels. Auto-Dri is used where a smaller, quieter unit is appropriate and is activated by infra-red sensor. Aqua-Dri is a robust drier with a faster drying time and an additional face drying facility. Its tougher dnc plastic cover makes it extremely strong.

Enter 108 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

White waste system

COMPLEMENTING the range of Oema All-Fit traps and available in 32mm, 40mm and 50mm sizes, the new Wavin Building Products white Oema Weld, solvent-weld waste system has been launched after a period of test marketing in the South-east. It is manufactured in ABS, is strong and requires no painting or maintenance. Wavin has made this introduction in response to demand from plumbers.



Enter 107 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Reception chair

DESIGNED by Geoffrey I lareour, the new Artifort reception chair, Model 503, from Interspace has a pressed beechwood shell, upholstered in moulded foam and mounted on a five-star aluminium swivel base. Upholstery is in a choice of fabrics with leather trim in matching or contrasting colours. Its base can be polished or powder coated in one of Artifort's colours. A sister product, Model 504, has a circular metal pedestal base, with a powder coated finish.



Enter 109 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Recessed luminaires

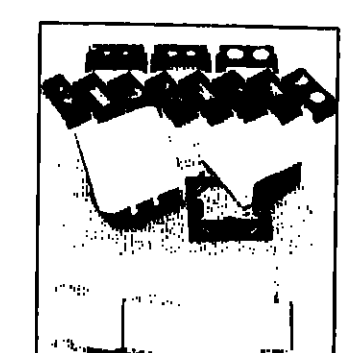


PHILIPS Lighting has introduced four new luminaires for use with its large PL energy-saving lamps. All have the benefits of small size and high light output. For recessed use in suspended ceilings with a 600mm module, the FCS 600 fitting is available with either two 24W or two 36W large PL lamps. The smaller version gives 12 per cent more light than a normal TBS 300 with four 18W lamps. Both types are fitted with low-brightness mirror controllers.

Enter 110 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

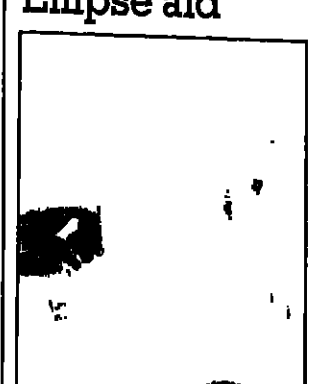
Computer outlet

THORSMAN and Company has introduced a new range of computer outlet boxes — Databox TDL 80 — which, it is said, facilitates new installations and makes the undertaking of modifications to existing installations easy. Consisting of three components — cover, base and plate — TDL 80 is neat in appearance and has 17 different plates within the range to suit almost every type of computer.



Enter 111 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Ellipse aid



DRAWING accurate ellipses can be a tedious and time-consuming business. Not, however, if you use the new Half Ellipsograph, available in this country from Cannon and Wynn. Any size of ellipse can be drawn using this instrument, in any combination of axis lengths. Lines can be of any thickness and the instrument comes with a pen or pencil holder. The Ellipsograph comes in two sizes; 170mm x 110mm and 350mm x 230mm.

Enter 112 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Bathroom suite



BALTIERI Bathroom, with its Swedish partner, Ito Sanitar, has developed the Aqua bathroom suite which demonstrates fittings of Scandinavian design, modified to British requirements. The suite has a six-litre flush, three litres less than the conventional UK system, and saves water without loss of performance. The test of the suite consists of a twin-grip bath, bidet and three basin options. The colour range includes two colour glazes — Pearl White and Pearl Grey.

Enter 114 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

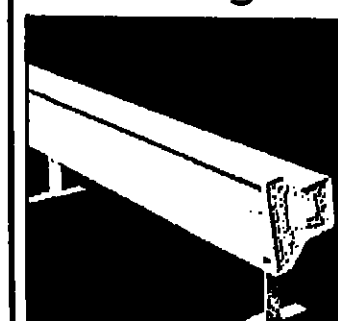
Brackets

BALIEYS Architectural Antiques has achieved a reputation for supplying genuine antique features rescued from old buildings being demolished. But it was discovered that demand for small decorative brackets far exceeded the supply of the genuine thing, and so the company commissioned the production of two designs of brackets, both made from original patterns. The brackets are cast in aluminium for strength, lightness and durability.



Enter 115 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Exterior light



WITH a system of weatherproofing which is said to be unique and does not involve the use of screws, the Crownlighter Twin (CD Series) external weatherproof lighting unit from Bush Signs contains a double line of fluorescent tubes (900, 1,500 and 2,400mm long). Another new feature is the fixing bracket system which provides for angle adjustment and allows location of the fixing anywhere along the length of the fitting.

Enter 116 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Office furniture

ABBOTT Brothers has announced the introduction of the dark oak 3000 range of executive office furniture. It consists of a double pedestal and single pedestal desk (2,134mm and 1,830mm), management and secretarial workstations, conference and occasional tables, credenza, bookcase and filing/telephone cabinets. Mirror finished chrome tubular legs contrast well with the dark oak to give a range which combines good looks with durability.



Enter 117 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Waterproofing



CONSIDERABLY cleaner to handle than many black-based waterproofing coatings, Foundation coating from Thoro can be applied to below-ground structures, even when they are damp. It is cement-based, will stop liquid water penetrating the structure, but will let water vapour permeate outwards. It is tough and unlikely to be damaged by backfilling operations. Foundation Coating is applied in two coats, the first brush applied, the second trowelled on.

Enter 118 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Clean floors

SPECIALLY suited to create "clean" floors in premises used by the food, pharmaceutical and electronic industries, the new Hydrosol water incorporating product — Levelay HD40 — from Corren Chemicals is designed to withstand heavy industrial use and is capable of resisting attack from most chemicals — acids, alkalis, solvents oils etc. Laid in thicknesses from 3mm, HD40 can be applied as an overlay to existing, worn or obsolete floors.

DESIGNED to replace the conventional tap washer made of leather, fibre, synthetic or rubber without modifying the tap, the new Hydrosol washer incorporates a number of devices which greatly extend its service life, stop dripping and make turning easier. This Australian device, which has had great success since its introduction there in 1984, uses the supply water pressure to help make an effective water seal. It does not rely on physical force to compress a washer, but uses an O-ring which moulds to its sealing.

Enter 119 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Enter 120 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Steel is ideal

RP Tubing by Mannesmann incorporates the latest technology in construction and design aimed to meet the advanced needs of today. Some of the advantages of using modern welded steel profiles include:

- Slim line design
- Greater life expectancy
- Load bearing properties
- Durability
- Thermal movement similar to concrete
- Ease of fabrication and maintenance of site

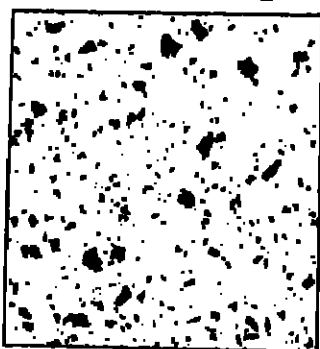
The use of RP Tubing will allow greater expansion and contraction for steel bridge design. It is also ideal for use in the construction of bridges, viaducts, and other large scale structures.

RP Tubing is available in a wide range of sizes and shapes, and is suitable for use in a variety of environments. It is a strong, durable material that can be used in a wide range of applications.



New products

Anti-graffiti paints



TWO new anti-graffiti coatings — Andura Flake and Andura Spatter — have been introduced by Anderson Industrial Paints. Both have attractive appearance and long-term durability. They form a hard, impermeable, tile-like surface from which graffiti can be easily removed using a special solvent cleaner.

Enter 121 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Floor tiles



FOUR embossed designs and a choice of 12 colourways — three to each design — this sums up the new Regency floor tile range recently launched by Marley Floors, primarily to the domestic market. Suitable for all parts of the house, Regency tiles are 300mm square, are asbestos-free and have a clear wear-layer which gives good resistance to marks and staining. Available in packs of 50, these tiles should be laid in accordance with BS Code of Practice CP203.

Enter 124 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Office lighting

SUPERTUBE 90° is a Swedish lighting system which is said to be a simple way of achieving excellent standards of desk lighting. Using this system, which is available in the UK from LDMS of South Benfleet, even distribution and light where it is wanted can be ensured. Specially designed louvres effectively shield the light source, eliminating the risk of glare, and being based on fluorescent lamps, SuperTube 90° is economical.

Enter 122 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD



Floodlights

TWO new tungsten halogen floodlights, the FMH 900 and the FMH 1250, have been introduced by GTE Sylvania. With a parabolic reflector of high grade anodised aluminium, these lights give maximum sustained light output. They have a die-cast aluminium housing coated with a corrosion resistant black polyurethane powder coating. The front glass is tempered to resist thermal shock.

Enter 125 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD



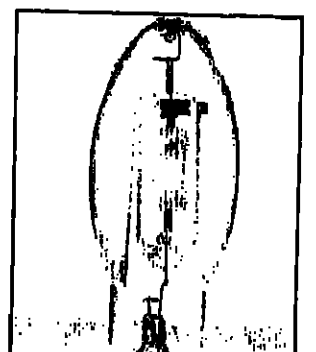
Amenity luminaire



SUITABLE for security and amenity uses on walkways and around a building perimeter, the Tamrite luminaire from Tamworth Electrical Engineering contains an energy-efficient 18W SOX lamp to minimise running costs. Manufactured in vandalproof polycarbonate, with a clear controller and black base, this unit can be wall or post mounted, either directly or via a corrosion resistant angle bracket.

Enter 123 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Metal halide lamp



NATURAL white light with excellent colour rendering — this is the claimed output of the new 100W Metalarc metal halide lamp from GTE Sylvania. It can be used base up or in a down in situations where high wattage incandescent lamps are used. Applications include retail store merchandising, hotel foyers and lobbies, banks and for landscape fittings (bollards, decorative post precinct lighting etc).

Enter 126 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Data round-up

AFTER a short apparent absence of activity the British Board of Agrément has launched its first new format Agrément certificate. This development was motivated by the increased recognition given to the Agrément concept by the new Building Regulations for England and Wales. The first new format certificate, for Pilkington Dritherm cavity wall insulation, contains colour-coded sections denoting those parts of the UK to which the text refers.

Three additions have been announced by the British Standards Institution. BS 5228 Noise control on construction and open sites has had a Part 4 added to it. Code of practice for piling operations. This recommends noise control measures which can be adopted to ensure good practice and enable piling to be carried out economically with as little disturbance to the community as possible. The cost of Part 4 is £22 (£8.80 to members).

A new Part 0 has been added to BS 5306 Fire extinguishing installations and equipment on premises. This part, entitled Guide for the selection of installed systems and other fire extinguishing equipment, presents in one document guidance that is now spread over the complementary seven parts of BS 5306. Advice is given on the selection, installation and maintenance of automatic water sprinkler and spray systems, carbon dioxide and halogen systems, foam and extinguishing powder systems, installed equipment for fire service use and the application of portable fire extinguishers. Cost £31 (£12.40 to members).

Clay and calcium silicate brick flexible pavements are covered by a new standard, BS 6677 Clay and calcium silicate pavers for flexible pavements. Part 1 Specification for pavers deals with the requirements for the pavers themselves; Part 2 Code of practice for design of tightly-trafficked pavements looks at design of the sub-base, roadbase, bedding course and wearing surface, edge restraint and

drainage; Part 3 Methods of construction of pavements gives advice on simple instructions for use. Parts 1 and 2 cost £14 (£5.00 to members) and Part 3 costs £9.50 (£3.80 to members).

Superseding the 1976 edition of BS 5760 Part 1 Guide to reliability and maintainability programme management, the new Part 1 sets out a suitable method of raising documents concerned with the specification of reliability of constructed or manufactured products, systems, equipment or components. The revised standard now covers systems containing software, whereas the previous edition was written mainly in hardware terms. BS 5760: Part 1 costs £31 (£12.40 to members).

Because BS 5606: 1978 Code of practice for draughtproofing in buildings has been misunderstood and misinterpreted, the code is being revised. Pending the revised version's publication, a couple of amending paragraphs have been published in AMD 4993 which point out that, for the standards to be used in dispute procedures, a must have been specified by the designer and not merely implied then only if the buildings in question have been designed in accordance with the standard.

All BSI publications can be obtained from the Sales Department, BSI, Linford Wood, Milton Keynes MK14 6LE.

IRE has published Digest 2: Domestic draughtproofing. Domestic draughtproofing considerations, which sets out several simple checks that should be made before draughtproofing to ensure adequate ventilation is still being maintained for the health of the building's occupants.

From the same stable come new information papers. IP 1/8 Reliability of underground basements in the UK is primarily addressed to owners and operators of district heating schemes, as well as the architects and consultants. Generally IRE found that these schemes compared well with conventional installations in performance and maintenance costs. But a few schemes were notably expensive to maintain.

IP 2/86 Porous aggregates in concrete: Jurassic limestone examined the quality of concrete made with this type of aggregate. It found that the concrete was generally strong and frost-resistant, but gained little durability from air entrainment.

Finally from the BRE, two Defect Action Sheets. Both deal with suspended timber floors. DAS 73, Remedying dampness due to inadequate ventilation and DAS 74 Remedying rotted joists. Both design action sheets and their titles describe precisely their content.

All BRE publications can be obtained from the Publication Sales Office, BRE, Garston, Wexford WC2 7JR. Digests cost £1 each, Information Papers 75p each and Defect Action Sheets 50p each (or £12 per year). All publications will be supplied post free on orders over £2.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors has published a useful booklet for anyone involved in performing or commissioning large-scale surveys. Specification for surveys of land, buildings and utility services at scales of 1:500 and larger presents methods of ensuring that the nature of the work required is specified. If none of the options in the booklet provides a useful aide memoire to ensure nothing is left out, the booklet can be obtained from the Surveyors' Publications, Norden House, Basing View, Basingstoke RG21 2HN, price £7.50 plus postage.

A new code of practice for ironmongery fittings for fire resisting and emergency exit doors has been published by the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers. This is the result of concern expressed by the guild over the poor quality and unsuitability of some specified ironmongery used and the fact that there is no unified national approach to the problem. The 68-page code of practice costs £17.50 (inclusive of postage and packing) and is obtainable from the guild at Stepney Green, London E1 3PL.

This Week's Advertisers

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The enquiry card opposite is a simple easy way to obtain information on manufacturers' products or literature in this issue. Postage is FREE and we pass your enquiry on to the manufacturer within 24 hours of receiving it. The number of enquiries and the quality are a barometer for advertisers to gauge how Building Design performs for them. So make sure that any product or service you need information on you use this card.

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TEGOLA TILES — LONG LIFE, LOW COST ROOFING AND CLADDING

Tegola Tiles are produced by Europe's largest manufacturer of glass fibre reinforced bitumen roofing tiles, and are made to specifications higher than the European and American standards. They have the top fire rating, have an insurance backed warranty on parts and labour, and therefore give a guaranteed long, maintenance free life.

Tegola Tiles are available in the widest range of shapes and colours (single and two-tone), including the copper Prestige tile, and therefore offer a solution for every roofing and cladding project from the economic to the historic. The product is lightweight, easy to install and available from stock.

Follansbee

Follansbee (UK) Ltd., 123 Lonsdale Drive, Oakwood, Enfield, Middx. EN2 7LS. Tel. 01-367-6463

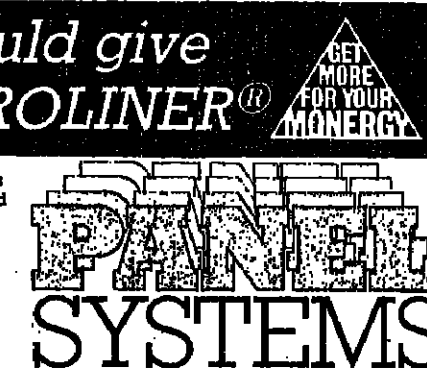
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Some Cockneys in Islington could give you the 'Wedgie Benn' on STYROLINER®

'Wedgie Benn - Goo'. That's the strange way they speak in that part of the world, but they only speak highly of the benefits of Styroliner even though they've never heard of it. That's because they are tenants of residential flats recently refurbished in the London Borough of Islington. The tenants benefit from increased warmth, lack of damp and peacchi atmosphere as a result of this highly thermal efficient and moisture resistant plasterboard and Styrofoam bonded panel. The developer was able to benefit from

the simple to handle and easy to install qualities of this modern, versatile material. Use your 'loaf of bread' and specify STYROLINER® for building economy and energy conservation.

PANEL SYSTEMS LIMITED, Units 3-9, Wolland Close, Parkwood Industrial Estate, Rutland Road, SHEFFIELD S3 9QY. Tel: (0742) 252861. Telex: 847811 Tolpan.



Technical literature

Promotions service

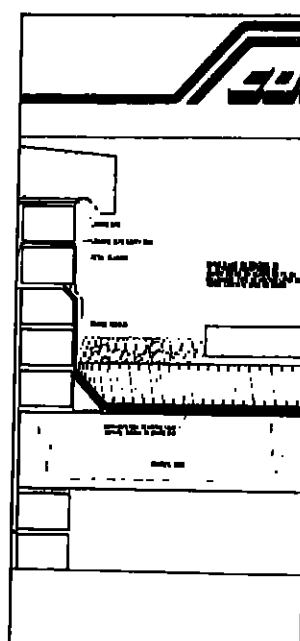
FORMED by marketing man Michael Gosser, the Architectural Promotions Service offers a monthly newsletter to subscribers detailing a particular aspect of architectural promotion, plus news and reviews of architectural marketing matters. Extra services are available, but costs have been kept to a minimum (£30 p.a.) for the basic material, which includes a "do-it-yourself" questionnaire to highlight your marketing strengths and weaknesses.

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Flat roof guide

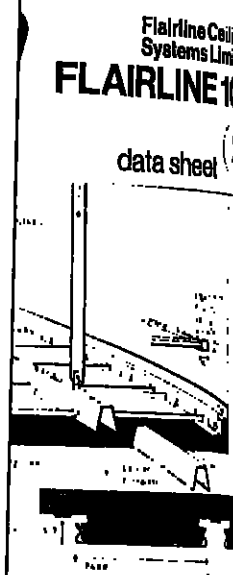
COLAS Building Products has published a Specifiers' Guide to Callenders Olympic high-performance roofing systems. These are based on TR350 and TR125 membranes, formed of polyester carriers and modified bitumens. The guide gives product data in a clear and concise manner and backs up this information with a series of workmanlike detail drawings. These are also reproduced on tracing paper, one detail per A4 sheet, stored away in a pocket on the back cover. These drawings should prove a useful draughting aid.



Enter 129 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Suspended ceilings

A USEFUL and well illustrated data pack is available from Flairline Ceiling Systems Ltd. This includes a series of data sheets including details of Flairline's Xtraspan, Flairscreen 100 and 200 and Flairline 100 systems. Some of the subjects dealt with in the sheets include curved ceilings in the Flairline 100 system, access panels and integrated lighting in the same system and details of the support methods. So often information on suspended ceiling systems leave areas of doubt in the specifier's mind. Not so in this case.



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Vinyl flooring

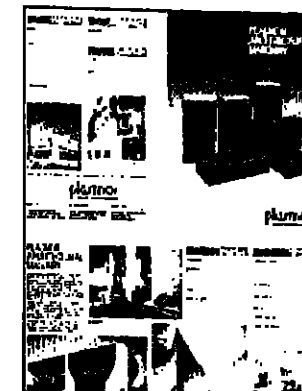
FULL details of all James Halsehead's vinyl sheet and tile floorings, including the newly introduced Polyflor Super XL, are included in the new Polyflor contract flooring brochure. Accompanying this is a technical information leaflet, which is a practical guide to the installation and maintenance of Polyflor floors. It includes sections on subfloor preparation, adhesives and end-user specifications.



Enter 135 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Concrete masonry

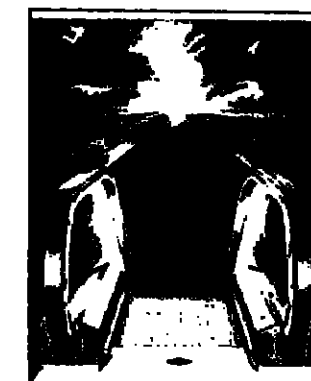
DETAILING is new range of architectural masonry. Plasmor's recently published colour brochure sets out the wide variety of possibilities which emerge when the range is used. Plasmor's masonry is available in 10 colours in plain or shot-blasted finishes. It is manufactured from naturally occurring aggregates in a full range of unit types — hollows, half length hollows, solids, reveals, quoins and lintels. Minimum efflorescence can be expected, according to Plasmor.



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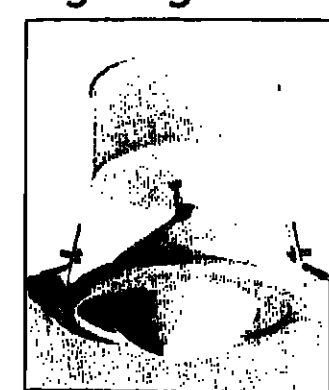
Escalators

A GENERAL brochure dealing with its products and services has been published by O & K Escalators. The company is part of the Orenstein and Koppel Group of West Germany, but is an autonomous British company. The brochure gives an indication of the prestigious locations where its equipment has been installed: such places as Lloyd's Centre in London, Heathrow and Gatwick airports and in underground developments in Glasgow and on the Tyne and Wear Metro.



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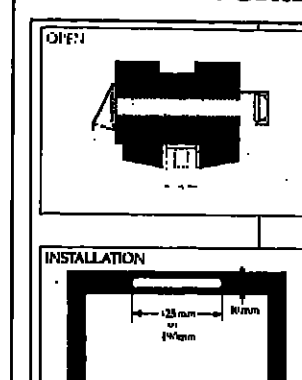
Lighting



LOW voltage tungsten halogen luminaires are the chief addition to this year's catalogue published by Beta Lighting. Miniature spotlights in various shapes, sizes and modern colours and metal finishes, a new range of transformers for integral and remote locations and a large selection of spotlights — are all included. In addition, Beta is introducing three new recessed downlights, including a fully adjustable eyeball with its own in-built transformer.

Enter 136 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Window ventilator



LATEST of Greenwood Airvac's publications comes a two-page data sheet dealing with its recently introduced window ventilator, Biube-Slotvent. The sheet covers the product construction, dimensions, performance and method of fixing. Biube-Slotvents are manufactured from satin anodised aluminium with black plastic end mouldings and controls. They come in two lengths (420 and 585mm) and are easily fitted into the top frame of a wood, steel, aluminium or upvc window.

Enter 140 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Torch-on roofing

MARLEY Waterproofing has published a data sheet dealing with its range of APP Torch-On high performance roofing membranes. In all, there are four grades of Marley APP — 200S, a glass fibre underlay, 300S, 400S and 400M, all polyester products, the latter with a green granule finish. APP torch-on membranes are able to absorb considerable building movement without cracking.

Enter 142 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

For further information on the products on these pages, use the pre-paid enquiry card.



Line it with Basegrout, not money

Basegrout is an accurately controlled pre-mix blend of pulverised fuel ash and cement, produced in fully automated plants.

Pre-batching eliminates costly cement wastage; and increased flowability due to particle size and shape, makes for economical on-site handling and reduced wear on plant and machinery.

The versatility of Basegrout as a fill or a stabilising material provides both the contractors and specifiers with a wide range of performance specifications and applications.

Basegrout can be effectively utilised in:-

Structural and non structural void filling for abandoned sewers, mine shafts, tunnels, pipelines, culverts, basements, heating ducts and abandoned bridges.

General purpose grouting behind tunnel linings and in mini tunnels. For use under a variety of conditions.

Stabilisation for brick hardcore, shingle beaches, embankment batters and pre-placed aggregates.

Methods of delivery
Basegrouts can be supplied in a variety of methods to suit individual site requirements:-



● By bulk tippers in a moistened state for ease of handling.

● In 25 kilos bags supplied in one tonne pallet loads.

● By one tonne bags with a bottom discharge point for site convenience.

● By pressurised containers delivering up to 20 tonnes for discharge directly into site silos.

Handling
Moistened Basegrout is usually handled in two ways — by direct gravity placing (SLUICING) or by PUMPING.

For gravity placing, it is tipped from lorries adjacent to the void to be filled and then sluiced into position using high pressure water.

For pumping, the Basegrout is tipped from a lorry into a tank, extra water is then added and the resultant slurry pumped in the usual manner.

Dry Basegrout is normally mixed and placed by conventional methods.

Basegrout

For full technical information and performance data, please send for the new Basegrout and Basemix literature pack.

POZZOLANIC LYTAGE LIMITED, Cleveland House, Cleveland Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 7EY. Tel: (0442) 89331

Enter 41 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Cubicles

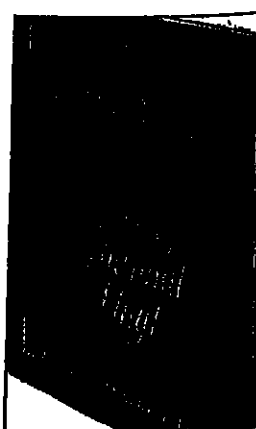


BUSHBOARD has published a six-page leaflet dealing with its recently introduced bushboard cubicles. A major feature of the system is its ability to give a custom-built appearance, despite being an off-stock cubicle. This is achieved by a range of postformed facings in standard colours which complement and contrast with cream doors and partitions.

Enter 131 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

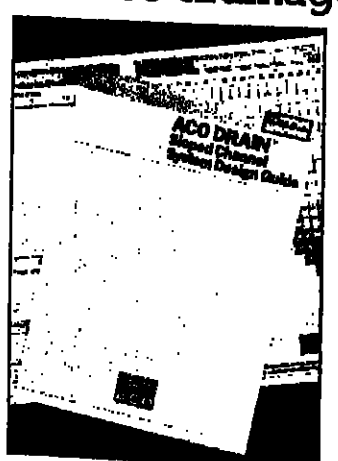
Thermal vinyls

LEYLAND has published a new pattern book of Superbass luxury thermal vinyl wallpapers. The new collection of blown vinyls includes 41 colourways, comprising 23 delicate colours and 18 white variations — all available from Leyland's national network of Trade Centres in room lots or minimum orders of four boxes. The expected life span of this collection is one year.



Enter 132 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Surface drainage



ACO Polymer Products, a market leader in the manufacture and supply of polyester concrete surface water drainage systems, has published a new guide to the correct hydraulic use of its products, entitled *Sloped channel system design guide*. This provides detailed statistics on flow rates, discharge capacity and total outflow for ACO's range of pre-sloped drainage channels, allowing the designer to be assured of a cleansing system.

Enter 133 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

Special bricks

BAGGERIDGE Brick, the West Midlands brickmaker with an extensive range of high quality facing and engineering bricks, including the traditional Staffordshire Blue brick, has issued a 12-page brochure, entitled *Special shaped bricks*. It illustrates all the BS special shapes, complete with full dimensions, and explains Baggeridge's policy of making purpose-made shapes where necessary to suit customers' needs. Baggeridge holds stocks of the most common special shapes.



Enter 134 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE

The cost of P.I. insurance has increased substantially over the past few years and the indications are that it will continue to do so in the future. All at a time when Architects in particular are under considerable pressure to contain their overheads. It is worth obtaining alternative quotations to compare with your present cover.

Contact Barrie Hurst
Building Design Insurance Bureau
147 Connaught Avenue, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex
CO13 9RA

By telephone (025 56) 2112
or insert number on the reader enquiry card

or complete the coupon below

Mr, Mrs, Ms, Miss
Name of practice
Address
Tel: Post Code

This year if all new houses were built with Jeffloor Plus they would save more energy than some North Sea oilfields can produce.

Since the 'energy crisis' has spotlighted the need to conserve energy, steps have been taken to reduce this loss in housing with legislation that defines minimum requirements for walls and roofs but there are still no regulations for floor insulation. This means that at least one of our North Sea oilfields is working for nothing every year. JETFLOOR PLUS, Trent's unique fully insulated, precast, suspended house flooring system could plug this energy gap and save money in installation.

For a start, the combination of Trent's lightweight beams and EPS infill blocks (manufactured exclusively for Trent by Vencel Reat) make the system the fastest and most easy to install, and gives a 'U' value that is far in excess of any existing system or any likely statutory requirements. Installation is unaffected by weather, needs far less labour and needs no heavy machinery.

It is well proven by most of the country's largest house builders, and has been acclaimed by the RICS as 'outstanding in its economy in use'. We're not talking about a drop in savings — contact us now and get more for your money.

GET MORE FOR YOUR MONEY

JETFLOOR PLUS

Trent Jeffloor Limited, Nottingham NG14 7JX. Tel: (0336) 830381

Member of The Housing Materials Group

ON EXPRESS

Drainage is one of the subjects where the Approved Document is simpler and easier to follow than the BS based. However, Henry finds himself needing to refer to the latter where the AD leaves matters open for interpretation.

"THE EASIRECS" No 26 H DRAINAGE BELOW GROUND DRAINAGE BY HENRY HAVERSTOCK Tel: 01-267 7676 with comments or criticisms

REQUIREMENT

H1 — (1) Any system which carries foul water from appliances within the building to a foul water outfall shall be adequate.

(2) "Foul water" in sub-paragraph (1) means water from a sanitary convenience or other soil appliance, and water which has been used for cooking or washing, but does not include waste containing any trade effluent.

APPROVED

DOCUMENT

This begins by explaining what is meant by "adequate" and asks that the system should:

- minimise the risk of blockage or leakage;
- prevent foul air from entering the building;
- be ventilated;
- lead to a sewer, cesspool, septic tank or settlement tank.

The section of the AD on foul drainage starts with a reminder that some public sewers may carry both foul water and rainwater, and, when there is such a "combined system", the provisions of H1 still apply, but the pipe sizes may need to be increased to carry the combined load.

The AD is then divided into individual paragraphs on layout, depth of pipe cover, pipe gradient and sizes, materials, bedding and backfilling and clearance of blockages.

LAYOUT

Layout should be kept simple. Changes of directions and gradients should be as few as practicable, and access points should be provided only if blockages could not be cleared without them. (Access points are places where blockages commonly occur).

What's new?

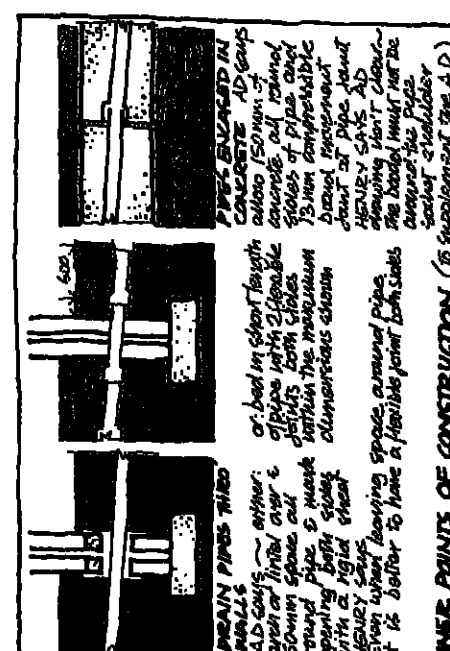
Pipes should be laid to even gradients in straight lines, "but may be laid to slight curves if these can be cleared of blockages". What constitutes "slight" is not defined. The Institute of Building Control Officers query team has commented: "The laying of drains to a curve is not new; this was always possible under the former Regulations. The criteria to work to have is that the layout must be such that the drains have an acceptable level of performance regarding to their function. It is not the radius of the arc

that is so important, but whether or not satisfactory access can be readily obtained to all parts of the drain. Bearing in mind that we now have a lot of flexible drain-cleaning apparatus in use, a radius would have to be very small before access could be found unacceptable. The availability of curved pipes must also be a determining factor when curved layouts are being planned."

Henry considers that there is a clear distinction in the AD between a curve, which might be achieved by using straight pipe with several flexible joints, and bends which are radiused pipes, and which the AD states should have as large a radius as practicable and should be limited to positions in or close to inspection chambers or manholes and to the foot of stacks.

A ventilating pipe, which may be a ventilated discharge pipe, should be provided at the head of each main drain, and any branch longer than 10m. Previously this was not specified.

Details of the special precautions to be taken to accommodate the effects of settlement where drains run under or near a building are spelled out.



PIPE COVER

The depth of cover usually depends on the level of the connections to the system, the gradients at which the pipes are laid, and the ground level. Pipes need to be protected from damage.

What's new?

Where rigid pipes of less than 150mm diameter have less than 0.3m of cover, or pipes of 150mm or more diameter have less than 0.6m, the pipes should be surrounded with concrete to a thickness of the diameter of the pipe or 150mm (whichever is the greater) and with joints at not more than 5m. In the old BS pipes were at 8m intervals. Where flexible pipes are not under a road, and have

Wednesday
The Architecture of Adolf Loos, a lecture by Wilfried Wang.
Venue: The Queen Elizabeth II Theatre, Winchester College, Hampshire, 6.30pm.
Details: Mark Kelly (0962) 67555.

Thursday
Fast work and some recent projects, lecture by James Clowen.
Venue: Brunswick school of the environment, Leeds Polytechnic, 12.30pm.
Details: (0532) 463 232.

Until May 1
The evolution of the window, designed by the Terry Farrell Partnership.
Venue: Building Centre, 26 Store Street, London WC1.
Details: Diana Hunt, 01-637 1022 or Charles Brooking, (0483) 504 555.

Exhibitions

Friday, May 2
House and Home: the industrial homes. The stone-built houses of the 19th century.
Venue: Crafts Council Gallery, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0AL.
Details: Jenny Scowles 01-376 7726.

May 11-15
Interior context, exhibition organised by the Crafts Council.
Venue: Olympia 2, London W14.
Details: Joanna Knott, 01-693 2190.

May 14-15
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Venue: Novotel, Hammersmith, London.
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(0372) 376 764.

Until May 25
Light values — modern architectural glass, organised by the Crafts Council.
Venue: Crafts Council Gallery.
Details: Press Office, 01-930 4811.

Until May 18
Dobles figures, the work of Antonio Saura, Eduardo Arroyo, Miguel Barcelo and Jose Maria Sicilia.
Venue: Museum of Modern Art, 30 Pembroke Street, Oxford OX1 1BP.
Details: (0865) 722 733.

Until May 17
Sir Owen Williams: engineer and architect, organised by the Architectural Association.
Venue: Architectural Association, London WC1.
Details: 01-636 0974.

Until May 15
Coca-Cola 1886-1986: designing a megamart.
Venue: Boilerhouse, Victoria & Albert Museum, London SW7.
Details: 01-581 5273.

Until May 11
Exhibition of the work of Miguel Navarro, Jose Maria Sicilia and Susana Molina.
Venue: Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2.
Details: 01-402 6075.

Until May 10
Phillip Wilson Steer: paintings and watercolours, organised by the Fitzwilliam Museum and the Arts Council.
Venue: Stoke-on-Trent Museum and Art Gallery.
Details: (0782) 273 173.

Until May 10
New tradition, the evolution of jewellery, 1966-1985, organised by the British Crafts Centre.
Venue: Cleveland Crafts Centre, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
Details: (0642) 226 351.

April 28-May 2
Design for Industry, exhibitions and receptions for Industry Year.
Venue: Royal Institute of British Architects (Wales).
Details: Don Snow (0222) 561 124.

April 27-29
Top drawer, summer gift exhibition for trade buyers.
Venue: Kensington Exhibition Centre, London W8.
Details: 01-734 8200.

Saturday — June 14
George Heywood Summer (1853-1940).
Venue: Cheltenham Museum & Art Gallery, Monday-Saturday, 10am-5pm.
Details: (0242) 37431.

Until May 25
The threads: artists and potters 1876-1950.
Venue: Geoffrey Museum, London E2.
Details: 01-739 8368.

Monday
The form of the city: between architecture and urbanism, conference organised by the Architectural Association.
Venue: Lecture Hall, Architectural Association, 36 Bedford Square, London WC1. 9.30am.
Details: Claire Johnson, 01-636 0974.

Tuesday
Computer packages for the building industry, seminar organised by FCG Computer Systems.
Venue: Building Centre, London WC1. 11am, 2pm and 4pm.
Details: 01-388 7345.

Tuesday
Recent projects, lecture by Jeremy Dixon organised by Leeds Polytechnic.
Venue: Brunswick school of the environment, Leeds Polytechnic, 12.30pm.
Details: (0532) 463 232.

Tuesday
Managing the smaller job, seminar organised by the RIAS.
Venue: Caledonian Hotel, Princes Street, Edinburgh. 11.45am-3.45pm.
Cost: RIAS Practice Services members £40 plus VAT, non-Practice Services members £55 plus VAT.
Details: RIAS Practice Services, 15 Rutland Square, Edinburgh EH1 2BE.

Tuesday-Wednesday
Contract law and construction contracts, course organised by CTA Services Ltd.
Venue: Englefield, Kings Ride, Ascot, Berkshire. 9.30am-5.30pm.
Cost: £164 Plus VAT.
Details: Barbara French, CTA Services Ltd, 2-4 Wood Street, Old Town, Swindon, Wiltshire. (0793) 610 506.

Wednesday
Industry: caring for the environment (conference for Industry Year).
Venue: RSA, London.
Details: Timothy Cantell 01-930 5115.

Wednesday
Responsive environments: an urban design colloquium, course organised by Oxford Polytechnic faculty of architecture, planning and estate management.
Details: Carolyn Tidbury, Short Course Unit, (0865) 60035.

Wednesday — May 2
Roofing and Waterproofing Worldwide, sixth international waterproofing conference organised by the International Waterproofing Association.
Venue: The Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington High Street, London W8.
Details: Cecilia Ingram, Conference Clearway Ltd, Conference House, 9 Pavilion Parade, Brighton. (0273) 695 811.

Wednesday
Heating systems — their development and control: part 2 — electric systems: storage heaters, central storage, heat pumps, seminar organised by the Energy Efficiency Office as part of its "energy efficiency measures in housing and other buildings" series.
Venue: Building Centre, London WC1.
Details: 01-637 1022.

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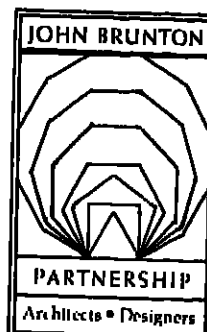
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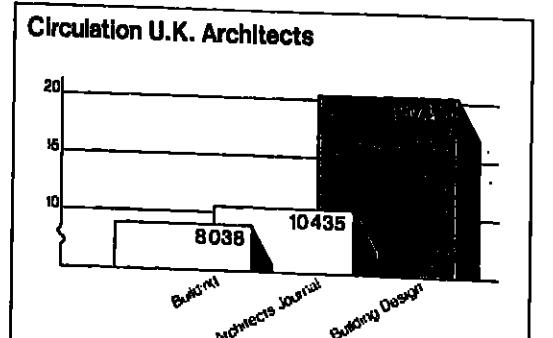
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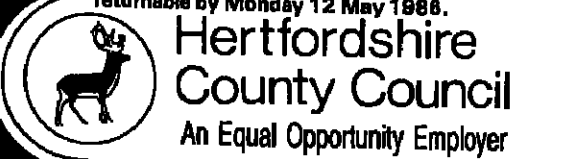
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Application forms and further details from Personnel Services, Town Hall, Patriot Square, London E9 9LN, or telephone our answering service on 01-981 0077. Please quote reference 164/511089/78/BD. Closing date for receipt of completed applications 19th May 1988.

MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENT OFFICER SO £9,975-£11,280 pa

We are looking for someone to work with the minimum of supervision on a variety of projects comprising pre-planned maintenance of the Council's housing stock, its administrative complex at Oaklands, together with various key centres and other corporate buildings. Applicants must have an enthusiastic and flexible approach, organising projects from inception to completion and supervising both staff and site works, ensuring that the Council's various programmes are maintained. Applicants should also have a minimum qualification of Intermediate Stage R.I.C.S. (Building), H.N.C. Building, or be able to demonstrate considerable relevant experience.

ARCHITECTURAL TECHNICIANS SS £7,920-£8,697 pa

Two people are needed to work with the minimum of supervision on a variety of projects, comprising mainly modernisation, repair and conversion works to the Council's housing stock, together with new build schemes. Applicants must be able to operate within a small team, have an enthusiastic and flexible attitude and hold a minimum qualification of H.N.C. Building, M.S.A.A.T., or already be experienced in this area of work.

All three jobs are in the Architects Division of the Health and Housing Department and carry essential car user allowances. For an informal discussion regarding any of these 3 vacancies telephone Ron Pooley, Principal Architect, on extension 5411. For an application form and job description contact Personnel Department, Mid Sussex District Council, "Oaklands", Oaklands Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 1SS (Tel: 0444-458166 Ext. 9276). Closing date 8/5/86.

Architect PO.2. £13,167-£14,202 inclusive

In common with most Local Authorities this Council is directing its efforts towards the repair and improvement of its own buildings.

You should be used to handling a busy workload involving detailed design, working drawings and undertaking site supervision.

If you are an Architect who has experience of this type of project and is committed to working within a multi-disciplinary office and willing to accept responsibility then apply for an application form from London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (Personnel), Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith W8 9JU, telephone 01-741 0804 (24 hour answering service) quoting ref: AHAB.8/BD. Closing date 14th May 1988.

For an informal discussion contact Mr M. Lee on 01-748 3020 ext 4704.

Architectural Assistant/Technician £8,217-£12,921 inclusive

You will need a wide knowledge and experience of building construction and be able to demonstrate the ability to run small projects or contribute as part of a team on larger jobs.

You should be qualified up to RIBA/RICS Part 1 or possess HNC and will be expected to undertake property surveys, specifications and to show quick and able draughtsmanship.

For further details regarding the post please contact Mr M. Lee on 01-748 3020 extension 4704.

Application forms from London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (Personnel), Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, W8 9JU, telephone 01-741 0804 (24 hour answering service) quoting ref: AHAA.14/BD. Closing date: 14th May 1988.

Hammersmith & Fulham
An Equal Opportunity Employer

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE ARCHITECTURAL TECHNICIAN SITE SUPERVISOR Salary Grade S4/5 £6,500-£8,697

An additional experienced Architectural Technician is sought for a busy architectural division working on a variety of schemes, large and small and who will be required, when occasion demands, to undertake supervision of Contracts in progress to ensure that specified standards are being met. The successful applicant will be expected to work with minimum supervision.

Job description and application forms available from: The Personnel Officer, Gloucester City Council, 75-81 Eastgate Street, Gloucester GL1 1HL. Telephone: Gloucester 31271 ext. 47. Closing date for return of completed applications: Friday 20th May 1988.

The City Council is an equal opportunity employer and applicants are considered on the basis of their suitability for the post regardless of sex, marital status, colour, race, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, trade union activity, political activity, or subject to the physical requirements of the post, disemployment.

GLOUCESTER City Council

BOROUGH OF SOUTH TYNESIDE

DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING ASSISTANT LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT Sc3-S02 £6,234 — £11,604 p.a.

A landscape architect is required for the Department's Landscape Team. The post covers a balanced workload including Inner Areas Programme projects, recreation, housing, urban fringe, General Improvement Areas, industrial and residential landscape schemes, incorporating internal and external works and new schemes. The post will be responsible to a Senior Landscape Architect, and will have support available from a Site Supervisor and a Technician.

The postholder should have a degree or diploma in landscape design, and preferably Associate Membership of the Landscape Institute, together with a minimum of one year post degree or diploma experience.

Anyone requiring further information on this post should telephone Marilyn Batchelor (091-456-8841 extension 288).

Application forms are available from the Chief Personnel and Management Services Officer, Westoe Hall, Westoe Village, South Shields (Telephone Tyneside 091-455 4968) and should be returned by Noon on 16th May 1988.

MID GLAMORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL Land and Buildings Department PROJECT ASSISTANT (Architect) Scale S01/P01

The Authority is seeking a young and enthusiastic qualified architect with management potential to develop their career and work as part of a multi-discipline design team in the largest local authority in Wales.

THE VACANCY

is within the Architectural Section of the Land and Buildings Department which is undertaking a demanding design programme covering a wide range of projects. The Department is committed to the use of new technology including computer aided design.

THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE

must be able to work under pressure and demonstrate that he/she can deliver the goods on target and within budget.

QUALIFICATIONS

Registered Architect with 3 years post qualification experience.

SALARY

is within the range £9975-£12168

APPLICATION FORMS

which must be returned by 16 May 1988 are available from the Director of Land and Buildings County Council Offices Greyfriars Road CARDIFF Telephone 820504

NATIONAL CONDITIONS OF SERVICE
CANNVASSING WILL DISQUALIFY
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

PUBLIC SECTOR APPOINTMENTS

PERTH & KINROSS DISTRICT COUNCIL Architectural Services Department ARCHITECT Salary Scale £10,638-£11,619

The Architectural Services Department handles, in addition to its housing programme, a wide variety of capital projects for other client departments and agency work for other bodies, offering the opportunity for considerable responsibility for projects, from inception to completion, to the successful candidate.

The successful candidate should be a registered architect or graduate, ideally with several years office experience.

Assistance with housing and relocation expenses may be available in appropriate cases.

A mileage allowance and car leasing/loan schemes are in operation.

Further particulars and application forms are obtainable from the Director of Personnel, Perth & Kinross District Council, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth PH1 5PH (Tel. Perth 39811. Ext. 3704/5). Forms to be in by 7th May 1988.

BOROUGH OF SOUTH TYNESIDE

DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING LANDSCAPE TECHNICIAN £6,900-£7,713 p.a.

Applications are invited for a landscape technician with not less than 3 years experience working with a landscape or environmental improvement team (preferably Local Authority) to provide technical support for a well established and busy team of six landscape architects and one site supervisor.

The initial appointment and progression through grade will depend upon qualifications, experience and job performance. Duties will include preparation of Committee and contract drawings from draft schemes prepared by landscape architects; updating and amending standard detail; maintenance of section project and trade literature files; assisting the site supervisor with site surveys and maintenance of site records; help with tree surveys and updating tree register and collection of Statutory Undertakers Services information and general administrative duties.

Application forms are available from the Chief Personnel and Management Services Officer, Westoe Hall, Westoe Village, South Shields (Telephone Tyneside 091-455 4968) and should be returned by Noon on 9th May 1988.

Planning and Transportation Department ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN GROUP

Following the creation of the combined Planning and Transportation Department under J.R.G. Thomas, applications are invited for the following post in the Environmental Design Group of the multi-disciplinary Urban Design Division.

The work of the Division is concerned with the design and development of a wide range of urban environmental and transport projects. The Environmental Design group, working closely with the Traffic Design Group within the Urban Design Division, is responsible for the redesign of all the pedestrian open space and urban renewal schemes within the City, ranging from the redesign of Oxford Street, Leicester Square and Soho, to the refurbishment of subways, housing area improvement schemes and the landscaping of its many historic streets and squares. It is also responsible for the production of a well designed range of street furniture, guidance policies and advice on historic buildings, conservation areas and environmental design input into traffic improvement schemes.

Applicants should be suitably qualified and experienced. Please telephone the Assistant Director (Urban Design) Dennis Ashbourne on 01 788 2630 or Noel Hill the Head of the Environmental Design Group on 01 788 2820, for any further information.

Environmental Design Team Leader (Development)

Salary £15342-£18428 per annum.

You will be responsible for leading the design work and management of two teams — one team dealing with environmental design projects, planning briefs and the preparation of feasibility and environmental impact studies; the other team dealing with design studies reports, the production of urban design policies and standards for townscapes, street furniture, heritage trails, pedestrian subway improvements and environmental traffic schemes, also design guidance on urban design matters and advice on related non-statutory policy.

You should be a chartered and registered architect/urban designer with at least eight years of professional/practical experience. This key urban design post presents creatively challenging opportunities for the right person in this Central London position. Applicants should preferably be knowledgeable in the work of the private sector as well as local Government and understand the professional and technical work of the Division and its relationship to other Divisions, Departments of the City Council and outside agencies.

How to Apply: For an application form telephone 01-834 5958 (24 hour Answerphone Service), call at the One Stop Services floor at City Hall or write to the Personnel Manager, Personnel Management Division (Ref. PT 16), P.O. Box 240, Westminster City Council, City Hall, Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QP. Closing date 9 May 1988.

WYCHAVON DISTRICT COUNCIL ARCHITECT (PROJECTS) Ref: AAP58

ARCHITECT (DEVELOPMENT CONTROL) Ref: AAP5 £9975-£11604 p.a.

ARCHITECTURAL TECHNICIAN Ref: AAP62 £4773-£7713 p.a.

Wychavon covers 260 sq miles of rural Worcestershire, which includes the famous Cotswold village of Broadway, the market town of Evesham, Georgian Pershore and Droitwich Spa, plus a wealth of buildings and areas of special architectural interest.

Our Architects have designed and built over 1,800 houses, flats and OAP bungalows since 1974 as well as working on public buildings, leisure facilities and currently a new very sheltered scheme and improvements to existing sheltered buildings and flats.

We require two qualified Architects with a positive design approach plus a Technician to join the enthusiastic design and project teams, based in our Department of Planning and Architecture in Droitwich.

Essential Car User Allowance. Relocation expenses payable in appropriate cases.

Job description and application form from: The Personnel Officer, 53 Head Street, Pershore, Worcs. WR10 1DA. Tel: 0386 553064 (94 hr answer service). Closing date: 9th May.

District Building Control Officer £10,290-£12,483 p.a. inc. (Pay award pending)

A vacancy has arisen for someone to join our small team of Building Control Officers based in Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.

The successful applicant will be responsible for plans examination under the Building Regulations and allied legislation, within one of six designated districts, together with associated site inspections and enforcement. Other duties include action in respect of dangerous structures and supervision of demolition works. The Council has developed a computerised system to assist the provision of an efficient professional service to the public.

Applicants must be qualified members of the Institution of Building Control Officers with at least 3 years post qualification experience, although consideration will be given to persons qualified to Part II Professional Examination level, initially appointed on salary scale SO.1/2.

Three Rivers District Council is situated in a pleasant part of South West Hertfordshire. A generous relocation package is available in approved cases. A current driving licence and personal transport is essential for which an Essential User Car Allowance will be paid.

For further details and an application form please contact the Personnel Department Three Rivers District Council, 17/23 High Street, Rickmansworth, Herts. Telephone (0923) 776811 ext. 38. Closing date for applications is 9 May 1988.

An equal opportunity employer.



Building a better London

That's the aim of the Central Technical Unit; an exciting new cost efficient venture that's been set up to provide a professional design service to the public sector.

Seven London Boroughs — Greenwich, Hackney, Lambeth, Lewisham, Newham, Southwark, and Tower Hamlets — had the foresight to collaborate in our establishment. Others are likely to join them soon.

Although most of our efforts will be directed towards the renovation of housing, we'll tackle many types of building project: ranging from small refurbishment projects to £ multi-million contracts.

We're starting off with a committed programme of £40 million per annum. But these are early days. Once we've gathered together all the technical expertise we need we'll be in a strong position to undertake the design of any public building project in London and achieve our projected annual turnover of £70 million.

Architects & Building Surveyors up to £13,830

Skilled professionals with all levels of experience, from the public and private sectors, are urgently wanted to work on various projects throughout the London area. Enthusiasm and the ability to work creatively within cost limits are equally as important as formal qualifications.

For more details about these posts, please ring Group Officers, Patrick Hamilton or Peter Camm-Jones on 01-735 1266. For an application form, please ring the Personnel Department on 01-735 1266 ext. 248 or 360.

We're also offering up to £15,702 or more for exceptional candidates for all grades of MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS. Full information about these positions can be obtained by ringing Michael Prince or David Richards on 01-735 1266.

Close to Vauxhall tube and British Rail Stations our new Vauxhall Offices at 95-97 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 offer a superb working environment where NJC terms and conditions apply.

WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER.

